

Whitehall fears collapse of negotiations on Rhodesia

Fears are growing in Whitehall that the Rhodesia conference cannot resume in Geneva on January 17 as planned, if indeed it can be resumed at all. The principal cause of this despondency is the resistance of Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, to British efforts to provide the basis for a settlement. In Mozambique, Mr Ivor Richard had constructive talks with President Machel.

Depressing reports from Mr Richard

By David Spenser, Diplomatic Correspondent
As Mr Crossland, the Foreign Secretary, and his advisers study the telegrams which Mr Ivor Richard is sending back from his African "shuttle", so fears are deepening that the long and arduous efforts Britain has made to reach a settlement in Rhodesia is about to run into the sand.
Despite Mr Richard's friendly reception in Mozambique yesterday, it is now accepted that there is virtually no chance of the Geneva conference resuming by the target date of January 17. Mr Richard is the conference chairman.
Worse, it is beginning to look extremely doubtful if the conference will resume at all—at least in its present form. The most likely course is a period of marking time, until the new American Administration has had time to think about its African policy.
The main reason for gloom is the continued obduracy of Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister. It is being reluctantly conceded in Whitehall that whatever Mr Smith seemed to have agreed in his historic broadcast of last September—when he accepted the Lancaster House settlement—the most likely course is a period of marking time, until the new American Administration has had time to think about its African policy.
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Mr Jenkins speaking to reporters before yesterday's meeting in Brussels, at which the sharing out of European Commission jobs was discussed.

EEC team decides who does what

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Jan 6
The new European Commission, under the presidency of Mr Roy Jenkins, began its inaugural meeting here today with one item only on the agenda—the sharing out of the jobs which its 13 members are going to do over the next four years.
Before the Commission went into conference, Mr Jenkins read out a brief statement in which he said that the aim of himself and his colleagues "must be to improve the lot of the ordinary citizen throughout the Community, and to make him or her feel that Europe is becoming a better place to live in."
The EEC had also to "combat the growing divergences in the economies of our member states—not by weakening the strong, but by strengthening the weak." Mr Jenkins paid a "tribute to the tenacity and courage" shown by the previous Com-

mission under the presidency of M François-Xavier Ortoli in defending "the still half-built citadel of European unity through a period of exceptional economic strain".
These civilities completed, the new Commission retired to get down to the serious business of the day after Mr Jenkins had read his statement in French, still the unofficial lingua franca of the Community.
Hard bargaining was expected over the allocation of portfolios within the Commission, which acts as the guardian of the Rome Treaty and drafts policy proposals for consideration and eventual decision by the Council of Ministers, the body representing the governments of the Nine.
Although Mr Jenkins has a guiding role in the portfolio allocation, the final decision on who gets which job is determined in each case by a majority vote of the assembled commissioners. The president's

Basis of settlement reached on earlier retirement from pits

By Paul Routledge
The long-standing dispute over early retirement for miners looked close to solution last night when union negotiators and the National Coal Board agreed on a deal that would reduce the retirement age to 62 for men with 20 years' service when the income policy permits.
By 13 votes to 12 the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers agreed to continue negotiations on that basis.
Even the militants agree that a settlement along those lines is likely to be accepted. The cost would probably be between £50m and £100m a year; that has yet to be agreed within the union and the coal board.
Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has said that no money is available to pay for early retirement.
Earlier, the prospects of a settlement had appeared to recede when the miners' executive voted, again by 13 to 12, and with one abstention, to reject the board's offer.
The scheme was finally met with approval by the miners' and workshop staffs, and concentrates on miners whose working life is spent underground. Workers aged 62 will

Manifesto challenge by Prague dissidents

From Dan van der Var, Bonn, Jan 6
The first sign of active liberal dissent in Czechoslovakia since the "Prague Spring" and the ensuing Soviet invasion of 1968 has come to light in the form of a remarkable document smuggled into West Germany.
It is a manifesto denouncing the suppression of human rights in Czechoslovakia and announcing the formation of a broadly based informal association called "Charter 77" to press for their restoration.
Attached is a list of 240 signatories whose names constitute the flower of the Czechoslovak intelligentsia, including many who suffered grievously for supporting the short-lived attempt of the Dubcek regime to lend a human face to communism in Czechoslovakia.
The document was distributed among representatives in West Germany of a number of leading Western newspapers. The immediate source does not wish to be named because, as he told me, this would mean his channel of communication would be destroyed. So would the source's reputation if his assertion that the document is genuine proves incorrect.
Confirmation should not be long in coming, however, if the source is right. Three spokesmen for the signatories are due to produce the manifesto in Prague tomorrow, which accounts for the timing of its distribution to certain Western correspondents.
The three spokesmen, named at the end of the manifesto as entrusted with speaking for all the signatories, are Dr Jiri Tjajek, Foreign Minister in Mr Dubcek's time, Mr Václav Havel, a prominent playwright and Professor Jan Patočka, a philosopher barred from publishing in Czechoslovakia.
The manifesto starts with the fact that the two United Nations conventions, on civil and political rights and on economic, social and cultural rights, drawn up in 1968, came into force last year and were officially gazetted in Czechoslovakia at that time as applying there.
References are also made to the United Nations general declaration of human rights and the final act of the Helsinki conference, which committed the participating states, including Czechoslovakia, to show more concern for human rights.

Rebels set Britons free and collect no ransom

By Diana Geddes
The British family held by Ethiopian guerrillas since May, have been released unconditionally, the Foreign Office announced yesterday. No part of the ransom demanded by the guerrillas, said by some reports to amount to \$1m (£500,000)—was paid.
Mr Lindsay Tyler, aged 33, a veterinary surgeon working on a British Ministry of Overseas Development aid project in Ethiopia, his wife Stephanie, Robert, aged seven, and Sarah (Sally), aged five, were taken to Port Sudan by car on Wednesday, and on to the British Embassy in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, yesterday.
The guerrillas were always on the move and difficult to contact, but the Sudanese officials had succeeded in negotiating with them, the Foreign Office said. No direct contact was made by British officials, and at no time was the ransom demand even touched upon. It is British policy never to pay ransoms for British subjects.
Speaking to Reuters in Khartoum yesterday, Mr Tyler said they were all "in good health and very glad to be out". They had been treated well physically and even received letters and Christmas gifts.
Continued on page 4, col 5

CBI wants rate of inflation cut to 5 pc next year

The Confederation of British Industry wants inflation to fall to an annual rate of 5 per cent by the middle of 1978. This is the priority of a manifesto, *Programme for Action*, issued yesterday. The document calls for reform of the way pay levels are determined and for more cuts in public spending. It also spells out the CBI's expected proposals in the Bullock Committee on industrial democracy. Page 15

Cable and Wireless pay revolt by directors ends

Five executive directors of the state-owned Cable and Wireless, who had refused reelection to the board until demands for higher salaries were met, have ended their revolt. Statements by the organisation and the Department of Industry did not reveal whether the salaries were to be raised, but said there was to be "consideration of certain proposals". Page 15

Slater 'incentive'

James Slater set up a Singapore company as an incentive to executives not to become involved in personal stock market dealings, according to an alleged statement by Mr Slater read at Honorary Road Magistrates' Court, London. It was read by counsel for the Singapore Government, which is seeking his extradition. Page 2

'Arrogant' Fulham

Fulham's refusal to give an undertaking that George Best will complete the current football season before returning to the United States has led to the club being accused by Mr Alan Hardaker, the Football League secretary, of being arrogant over the case of the Northern Ireland player. Norman Fox, page 8

England two up

England went two up in the series after winning the second Test match in Calcutta by 10 wickets. India, after brief resistance from their talented batsmen, were all out for 181 in their second innings. John Woodcock, page 7

Death and injury in motorway fog

Two men died and nearly a score were injured as fog and ice gripped motorways in north-west England. The police again criticized drivers who refused to adjust their driving to the conditions. Overhead lighting is to be installed at one of the danger spots, the Irwell valley stretch of the M 62 near Manchester, later this year. Page 3

Law change delayed

Government action to change the law on compensation for personal injury, property damage or losses caused by defective products will be delayed because of a muddle over a European Community directive on the subject. It clashes with a draft European convention which is open for ratification by Council of Europe members. Page 3

Carrillo poll plans

Señor Santiago Carrillo, the Spanish Communist leader, has outlined to *The Times* his party's electoral strategy. He seemed confident that the Communists would take power in the general election. He indicated that the party would not form an alliance with the Socialists for the Lower House poll but there could be a wider alliance for the Upper House election. Page 4

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Safety criticism: Fire precautions at a home

where 10 elderly people died on Wednesday, were inadequate, a care assistant alleged. China: Chairman Hua takes on the appearance of a military figurehead as Army control increases. Citizens protection: A new law will protect West Germans from the dangers of having their names and personal information on lists held by official and private organizations. 14

Royal Navy: Four-page Special Report on Britain's senior Service, its capability and striking power

London: Patrick Stewart talks to John Higgins; Michael Church on television; Irving Wardle on a change (Theatre Upstairs). Sport, pages 7 and 8. Cricket: Australia beat Pakistan in second Test, by 348 runs; Tennis: Ash beaten in Australian championship; Golf: six previous winners survive first round of President's Cup; Racing: Sandown Park and Haydock Park prospects; Motor Racing: preview of 1977 season. Business News, pages 15-20. Stock markets: Fresh demand helped the FT Index to rise 3.1 for a close of 387.8.

US threat to £10m deal with Russia

By Clifford Webb, Midland Industrial Correspondent
Big follow-up contracts for aerospace and motor industry projects may be lost to Britain if American opposition prevents Lucas Industries from completing a £10m deal to supply the Soviet Union with an advanced fuel-control system for the Tu144 ("Concord" style) supersonic airliner.
United States Defence Department fears that the Lucas fuel system will be fitted to the Backfire swing-wing bomber are viewed sceptically. The system was test-flown in the Concord but was not adopted by the Anglo-French team. That would seem to indicate that western technology has advanced since the Lucas design was evolved.
It was suggested last night that American opposition on security grounds may hide commercial interests. Lucas Aerospace is the largest aircraft component manufacturer in Europe and has only one outside America to offer complete aircraft electrical systems. It has had a hand in every European cooperative aircraft project.
Without Lucas the American aircraft industry would have the field free to deal with the Russians or as is thought more likely to deny them access to the western technology they need. Western help would enable the Russians to become effective competitors in international civil aviation markets.
Lucas said last night: "We have done all our negotiations in the open and are quite prepared to accept any authorized security ruling. We announced on December 22, when the agreement was signed in London, that it would become effective only when the appropriate ratification had been received."
The ratification is security clearance by British and Nato defence committees who scrutinize the export of sensitive technology to communist countries.
The Tu144 has a Lucas electric generating system and a constant-speed device. The developing Soviet motor industry uses Lucas products made under licence.

Murdoch takeover bid stops press

From Peter Stafford, New York, Jan 6
The whole staff of *New York* magazine walked out today in protest against the attempt by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, to take over the company which owns it.
It was press day and the stoppage will at least delay next week's issue. The walkout was a sign of the hardening opposition on the magazine, to the takeover.
The main opposition to Mr Murdoch has come from Mr Clay Felker, the president of the *New York* Magazine Company. But today Mr Felker appealed to the staff to return immediately, and said he would try to bring out the paper on his own if necessary.
Mr Felker was due to meet Mr Murdoch later today in an attempt to work out an amicable settlement. This is something he refused to do earlier, out of deference to the feelings of his staff. But he was ordered to meet Mr Murdoch by the judge who is handling the court case arising from the takeover.
Mr Murdoch claims to have acquired more than 50 per cent of the stock of the company, which publishes *New York*, *The Village Voice* and *New West*, the last in California.
The hope of the staff is that Mr Murdoch will be dissuaded from pressing his bid further by the bad publicity he has been getting.
Staff opposition and a walk-out like the one today must also make the investment less attractive to Mr Murdoch and his associates, they argue.

Private schools may lose 'efficiency' label

The Department of Education and Science is considering plans to end the practice of giving the formal seal of "recognition as efficient" to independent schools.
The move, reported in *The Times Educational Supplement* today, is being considered for economy reasons and would reduce the burden of work on the department's inspectors.
The department said there was a November meeting with the Independent Schools Joint Committee "to discuss the possibility that it might be necessary to discontinue the arrangements for recognizing independent schools as efficient."
"Preliminary discussions had been held but no decision had been made." The committee was assured that there would be an opportunity for interested parties to express their views before a decision.
The plan was described as a disaster by Mr Donald Lindsay, director of the Independent Schools Information Service. This seal is a valuable safeguard, he said.
No decision is likely for about a year, according to Mr P. J. Walesby, secretary of the schools joint committee.

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Lord Plowden seeks to remove police doubts about complaints board

By a Staff Reporter
Lord Plowden, whose appointment as chairman of the newly formed Police Complaints Board was confirmed yesterday, tried last night to dispel fear among the police forces that their authority would be undermined by the independent body. He said impartiality would be the board's aim.
The deputy chairman will be Sir James Waddell, a former deputy under-secretary at the Home Office. The three other members are Sir Frederick Hayday, a former member of the TUC General Council, Sir George Ogden, former chief executive of Greater Manchester, and Mrs Rosemary Wolff, member of the Community Relations Commission.
The board was established under the Police Act, 1976. From April it will be able to scrutinize reports of all police investigations into public complaints, numbering 20,000 a year. It can pursue the investigations further, or set up disciplinary tribunals where appropriate. The concept of the board has been dismissed by Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, as "harmful and costly, and without discernible merit."
Lord Plowden last night defended the board. "Its aim is to reassure the public that it is getting a fair assessment of complaints," he said. "In that sense it should act as a support to the police."
He hoped that sanction of police investigations by an independent watchdog would strengthen rather than diminish their authority in the eyes of the public.
"In 99.9 per cent of cases one would not expect to challenge the judgments reached by the police investigations," Lord Plowden said. "They are carried out in an exemplary way in the vast majority of cases, but there is always a possible danger in the police being judge and jury in its own court."
He hoped that complaints tribunals, consisting of a police officer and two board members, and empowered to suspend or dismiss a member of the force, would be summoned only in extreme cases, probably at a rate of fewer than 50 a year.
He attributed police reservations about the board to "an understandable fear that we shall be soft on cases and take the part of unreasonable complainants." Lord Plowden emphasized that there would be no such leniency but by the same token there would be no attempt "to whitewash the police."
He has refused to accept a salary. "I want to make clear that I feel that task, it is worth doing for itself," he said.

HOME NEWS

Slater company 'set up as incentive to executives not to deal in Far East stock market'

James Slater set up a company called Spydar Securities for the benefit of some executives involved in personal market dealings, according to an alleged statement by the financier, read at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, London, yesterday.

The statement, said to have been made at Bow Street police station, was read by Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, counsel for the Singapore Government, Singapore seeking the extradition of Mr Slater and Mr Richard Taring, former head of Slater, Walker activities in the Far East.

The alleged statement said Mr Slater agreed to take part in Spydar on Mr Taring's suggestion. It quoted Mr Slater as saying: "There was a motive for me to become involved in a fraudulent scheme. The intention was to give incentives to executives, to make sure they did not deal in the local stock market."

It was a well known Slater, Walker practice to share shares for executives, the statement continued. Otherwise personal dealings on the "frantic" Far East stock exchange would have taken their minds off their real jobs.

Mr Slater was alleged to have said that his own participation in the scheme would have been welcomed in some countries as a sign that he was directly con-

cerned with the well being of his companies.

"The apparent suggestion is that I was responsible for the non-disclosure of the scheme to the Haw Par shareholders. I had nothing to do with that," Haw Par was a Singapore company which, for nearly two years, was controlled by Slater, Walker executives.

After Mr Slater's arrival in Hongkong, the agreed scheme was implemented and left in the hands of an employee who was a solicitor, the alleged statement said.

"Therefore," it continued, "I had nothing to do with the implementation of the scheme."

However, it was accepted that it might have given rise to a civil claim by Haw Par. "But I emphatically deny that there was any intent to defraud Haw Par," the alleged statement said.

At the beginning of the alleged statement Mr Slater was said to have explained that he was in charge of 19 United Kingdom companies, 400 overseas companies and 400 subsidiaries at the time. Because of the company's complexity it was mentally and physically impossible for him to concern himself with anything but important policy decisions and company structure.

Mr Waterhouse then read a letter which, he said, Mr Slater had sent to one of the Singapore investigators. In it Mr Slater was alleged to have said

the Spydar scheme was conducted "in as low profile as possible to avoid the risk of jealousy and friction between non-participating and participating executives."

The scheme was clearly not something it would be appropriate to advertise to the world at large.

Mr Slater was said to have added: "While Spydar was established on a confidential basis it was, of course, intended that all legal requirements should be complied with."

Mr Waterhouse also spoke about meeting at the Mandarin Hotel, Hongkong, in March, 1972, attended by Mr Slater, Mr Taring and other directors at which shares in Spydar were discussed. By that time shares in the Kwan Loong company had quadrupled in value.

"It is the submission of the Singapore Government that the essence of this agreement was one of secrecy," Mr Waterhouse said.

"It was to be worked in secret and operated in secret, and the manoeuvres that followed were designed to give retrospective effect to transactions, no doubt to try to persuade lawyers and auditors there was a bona-fide contemporary transaction."

Mr Slater and Mr Taring were plainly part of the agreement, he continued. Shares in the Kwan Loong and King Fung companies had previously been bought by Haw Par.

The case continues today.

Criticism of fire rules in home where 10 died

Fire precautions at Wansley Lodge old people's home at West Hill, Heston, near Hull, where 10 people died in a fire on Wednesday night, were inadequate, a member of staff said last night.

Mr Brian Pellowe, aged 37, a care assistant who has worked at the home for 11 months, made the allegation after a speech to the Hull City Council on Wednesday night. He said: "I was told not to talk to the press and I shall probably lose my job. But someone has to speak."

"I put 11 of these people to bed, and nine are dead. In my opinion the fire precautions were inadequate. There were no exterior fire escapes."

There were blind, deaf and handicapped people. Some had more than one disability."

Mr Pellowe said there were two few staff on duty when the alarm was raised, as the 49 residents, some in their eighties and nineties, were going to bed. He said: "Last week a memo came round restricting our overtime. If that had not happened I would have been on duty until 10 pm."

"There would have been two men on duty between nine and 10, when the fire started, instead of one. On Wednesday morning I checked the building, and there was nothing wrong. But for the overtime restrictions, an extra man on duty could have made all the difference."

Mr Pellowe said the fire started in a bedroom above the boiler room. On Wednesday morning using torches he had been repairing the boiler, he said. The boiler room contained a 300-gallon tank of fuel oil.

Mr Michael Wheaton, vice-chairman of Hull's social service committee, said there was no secret about the cut in overtime at the home. But that in his view, the number of staff on duty when the fire broke out.

The alarm was raised at 9.30 pm by Mr George Pearson, who was taking over from Mr Pellowe. Mr Pearson was not due until 10 pm.

Mr Edward Park, chief of Humberdale Fire Brigade, said yesterday that control of the fire took longer than normal. The fire-fighting appliances in the home were adequate and complied with the code of practice for such premises. They also met the high standards of the county council, he added.

Firemen were searching the debris last night for more possible victims. Nine bodies had been recovered and a tenth could be seen.

Nineteen other residents were injured in the fire. One of them was on the serious list in hospital last night.

A resident who could be accounted for, later telephoned the police to say he was in the village public house.

Several members of the staff, an ambulance driver and a fireman were also injured. The fireman Mr Norman Dean, fell down a lift shaft.

Polio confirmed

Poliovirus was confirmed yesterday in a 19-year-old woman farmworker from Royston, Hertfordshire. She was admitted to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, last month and was thought to be suffering from meningitis.

Individual unions are being left to decide the wording of the ballot forms, although the TUC has offered the advice of a straight question inviting a "yes" or "no" answer. It is not clear whether the electricians' and engineering workers' unions will call for a test opinion in other ways.

It is understood that there is a move in the National Union of Journalists to get the issue decided at the annual delegates' conference in March this year. The question is expected to be discussed at the union's executive meeting at the end of this month.

The date most frequently being mentioned for the printing unions to hold a ballot is February 4. The results would be made known early in March.

Theft fines total £1,700

Two Lebanese women said to have raided a West End store, stealing clothing valued at £49, were fined £1,700 between them with £40 costs at Marlborough Street Magistrates Court yesterday.

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said before the rules were introduced in order that they would ensure that bread would be sold for less than it would otherwise be. Mr Hattersley wanted to counteract the January increase in bread prices by allowing higher discounts between bakers and shopkeepers.

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Moderator criticizes SNP view of control through national bank

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Professor Thomas Torrance, yesterday joined in the economic arguments over Scottish devolution.

In a speech to Edinburgh Rotarians he expressed concern that, in view of the mismanagement of the British economy, leaders of the Scottish National Party should take about the need to establish a national bank through which a Scottish assembly would exercise economic control.

"Have we not learnt that the mismanagement of our economic affairs by the British Government goes back ultimately to the nationalization of the Bank of England," he said. "Because the Scottish economy is inseparably intertwined with that of the rest of the United Kingdom I cannot see devolution functioning successfully without radical change in the status of the Bank of England."

Something like the German Bundesbank was required, which, while nationalized, retained independence. Only a Bank of England of such a kind could exercise effective control over the economy of Scotland as well as of England and Ireland and obstruct the imposition of inflationary measures by government upon it, as well as allowing the present level exceeded three

fifths. At that point the ratio of advancing economic control quickened and with it progress of our life.

From a staff reporter, Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party has agreed to a radical change in its financial policy after criticism from the Associated Scottish Life Offices, which controls £3,000m of assets in Scotland.

Mr Douglas Crawford, SNP spokesman on finance and industry and MP for Perth and East Perthshire, published a reply to the life offices yesterday, saying that the party was perfectly happy to drop the requirement asking that all foreign-based companies would be required to establish a Scottish subsidiary for their Scottish operations. That would apply also to English companies.

"I fully accept that this would put grave difficulties in your paths, and as a result of this I believe that the recommendations," Mr Crawford said.

He disagreed, however, that an atmosphere of antagonism between Scotland and England would be unavoidable if Scotland achieved self-government. He believed that the two countries would enjoy a much

more harmonious relationship than under the status quo or with devolution.

The party also rejected a suggestion that it would be the responsibility of any life office to build up reserves in a currency other than the one in which it was proposed to pay the policy proceeds. It believed that Scottish policyholders would pay and receive their policies in Scottish pounds and English policyholders in pounds sterling. Standard Life's extensive operations in Canada followed that procedure without difficulty.

No Scottish government would restrict the investments the life offices might make in the Scottish equity market. It was hoped that they would continue to invest on the London, Frankfurt and New York exchanges.

"One of the beauties of this would be that an appreciating pound Scots would mean that the dollar and the mark, etc, premiums would be considerably less than they are at present with the depressed pound sterling," Mr Crawford said.

Civil Service unions seek inquiry into dispersal of offices from London

By Tim Jones

The Government will come under increasing pressure from the Civil Service unions to hold an independent inquiry into its dispersal programme, which involves the movement of 31,000 people out of London by the mid-1980s.

That became clear yesterday when a representative of one of the eight unions on the Whitehall Council maintained that public expenditure cuts were to be achieved by the dispersal of all building schemes due to start from last month, with the exception of the buildings for the staff of the Welsh and Scottish assemblies.

According to a document circulating among the unions, the savings will be £27m in 1977-78 and £45m in 1978-79. Mr John Ellis, an assistant secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, who compiled the document said: "The dispersal will apply to new buildings, occupational services in existing buildings and new hirings, and to the office improvement programme."

That meant that the entire dispersal programme would be deferred for at least 12 months, including the buildings for the dispersal of the Department of Health and Social Security to Blackpool and the Office of Population Censuses and Services to Southampton.

The document makes clear that because of the economies a revised programme covering the whole of the dispersal programme and agreed with the Treasury and the Civil Service Department is to be issued. Mr Ellis says the revised programme is unlikely to be completed until 1985 at the earliest.

Mr William Kendall, general secretary of the staff side of the Whitley Council, said last night that he would be arguing for a comprehensive review of the entire programme.

Pressure will be high to the W of the British Isles with a NW airstream over all districts.

Forecasts from 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central S England: mainly dry, clearing to give bright or sunny intervals; wind NW, light or moderate; max temp 7°C (45°F); min 2°C (36°F).

East Anglia, E, NE England: mainly dry, coastal showers later, bright spells, becoming cloudy; wind NW, moderate; max temp 7°C (45°F); min 2°C (36°F).

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EMI ends 'punk rock' group contract

The recording contract between EMI and the Sex Pistols, the controversial "punk rock" group, is being terminated, it was said to be worth £40,000.

A statement said: "EMI feel it is unable to promote this group's records in view of the adverse publicity generated over the past two months, although recent press reports of the behaviour of the Sex Pistols appear to have been exaggerated."

The group, which recently published a single called "Anarchy in the UK", written by Johnny Rotten, its lead singer, achieved prominence with a television appearance in which four-letter words were used.

Mr Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch and Lynton, said EMI that it was financing a "bunch of ill-mannered louts" after scenes involving the group at Heathrow.

Mr Malcolm McLaren, the group's manager, said in Amsterdam yesterday: "As far as I am concerned we are still with EMI and are promoting our record on their label during the tour of Holland."

He said: "This morning I received a telephone call from EMI. They said they wanted to terminate our contract by this afternoon. I told them I would have to talk to other people about it. But as far as I am concerned, if they have terminated the contract, we have not."

Mr Leonard Wood, group director of music for EMI, said: "From a purely technical point of view the contract has probably still to be terminated. But we understood that Mr McLaren had given his verbal agreement to our managing director. Terms of cancellation were agreed by him on the telephone this morning."

Mr Nicky Boddy, owner of the hotel where the group is staying, said: "Their behaviour is just a publicity stunt."

Grandmasters held to draws at Hastings

From Harry Golombek, Hastings

Abundant will to win was evident in the eighth round of the Ladbroke grandmaster chess tournament at Hastings, yesterday. The Russian grandmasters were both held to draws. Romanishin gave up a rook for a knight and two pawns but was stalemated by Fargas into an ending that proved impossible to win. Smyslov was well held by the British player, Andrew Whiteley, and although he also sacrificed the exchange the game simplified into a drawn ending just before the adjournment.

Results in round eight: Fargas 1, Romanishin 1, Nimzo-Indian def. Smyslov 1, Nimzo-Indian def. Smyslov 1, Nimzo-Indian def. Smyslov 1, Nimzo-Indian def. Smyslov 1, Nimzo-Indian def. Smyslov 1, Nimzo-Indian def. Smyslov 1.

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No new political move in Ulster

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

The Cabinet is understood to have ruled out any question of a new political initiative in Northern Ireland, despite growing clamour in Ulster and the Irish Republic for official moves to end the constitutional deadlock.

The decision has been taken against the widespread campaign of violence by "loyalist" and republican extremists. It continued unabated yesterday with the burning of a big Belfast bus depot, hijackings in Roman Catholic districts, and the bombing of an electrical shop near the university.

British ministers were angered by recent criticisms of their policy by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, in which were echoed by politicians on both sides of the border.

"The time for setting the people of Ulster political examination papers which they have no hope of passing is over," a senior government source said yesterday. Mr Mason, the Secretary of State, feels that circumstances no longer permit the British to impose an outside solution on local politicians. Instead, the message is constantly being repeated to them publicly and privately that a devolved system

of government is available immediately to leaders of the opposing religious communities can agree.

Meanwhile the five British ministers based at Stormont Castle are concentrating their energies on trying to make the devolution process more efficient in the economic and social fields.

The Government is planning its main hopes on the unexpected suggestion of administrative rather than legislative devolution made shortly before Christmas by Mr James Moynihan, leader of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition MPs at Westminster. There is hope that in the coming months that can be used to get Roman Catholic and Protestant politicians talking again.

Mr Mason is known to feel that discussion of a county council type body at Stormont could lead to the vital first stage agreement between the loyalist parties and the mainly Roman Catholic Social and Democratic Labour Party.

Steps to set up a purely administrative body could be completed quickly because much preliminary work has been done by civil servants. Two main stumbling blocks in the way of the Moynihan plan are the attitudes of members of his Official Unionist Party, many of whom want nothing

less than a legislative assembly, and the increasingly divided SDLP.

The executive of the Official Unionist Party will meet in Belfast at the end of the month and last night Mr West, the party leader, told me: "I am not in favour, and at present our policy remains to seek for the implementation of the constitutional report."

Mr Mason found himself involved in a dispute last night over the reporting of terrorist violence by the press and, more particularly, the BBC. According to yesterday's Daily Mail, a dispute was held last year to mark the opening of new BBC studios in Belfast ended in a heated exchange between Mr Mason and BBC executives about the corporation's coverage of the Northern Ireland crisis.

Last night the Belfast branch of the National Union of Journalists decided unanimously to request the Secretary of State to repudiate statements attributed to them that there should be a three-month blackout on the reporting of terrorist activities, and that the BBC was refusing to support the rebels, purveyed their propaganda, and refused to accept the advice of the Northern Ireland Office on what news to carry.

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Business students urged to help unemployed

By a Staff Reporter

Unemployed youngsters in Britain should be helped to find work by business management students who had been released from their studies for six months, Mr Alec Dickson, founder of Voluntary Service Overseas, said in London yesterday.

The students could apply their professional skills to helping groups of youngsters to discover what labour-intensive requirements went unfulfilled in their areas, and then set them up in small cooperative endeavours to provide wanted commodities.

That type of entrepreneurial cooperation was working well in America, he told a meeting at the Royal Commonwealth Society. Teams of youngsters had contracts with municipal councils to help them to move across-sprayed graffiti from public places; others hired as junior community service officers to work with constables in high crime areas and to escort late-duty nursing staff from hospitals to bus stops. Some teenagers were visiting people's homes to rouse car engines.

In Britain there was nothing in the schooling of youngsters that developed that attitude; but the ability to develop such initiative should be encouraged.

Individual unions are being left to decide the wording of the ballot forms, although the TUC has offered the advice of a straight

HOME NEWS

Two die as fog and ice grip four motorways

Two people, one a policeman, were killed and at least 17 were injured in more than 20 accidents in fog and ice on motorways in north-west England yesterday. Conditions on the area's four main motorways, the M6, M62, M63, and M66, were described by the Automobile Association as "murderous".

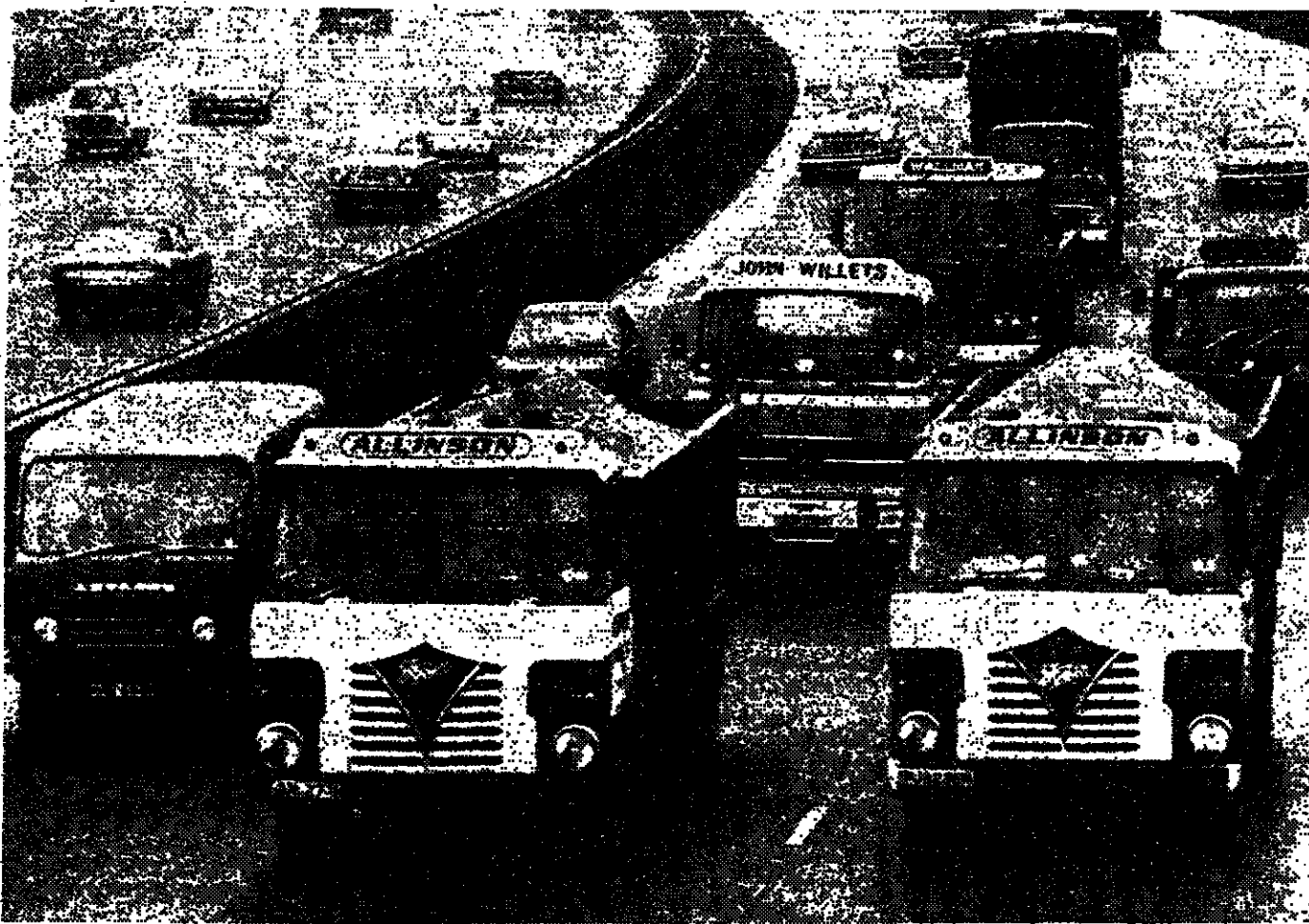
Police-constable John Cameron, aged 27, of Radcliffe, Greater Manchester, died when a patrol car overturned and burst into flames after being in collision with a lorry. The crash occurred in thick fog at the junction of the M62 and M66 at Haap Bridge, near Bury. His companion, PC Michael Kennedy, was treated for a fractured jaw. The two men were driving to join fog patrols when the accident occurred.

The other man who died was Mr John Morphet, aged 50, of Thomas Street, Hindley Green, Wigan. He was killed in the second of a long series of crashes on the M62.

At one time 40 miles of the M62, from Maresfield to the Yorkshire boundary, was affected by accidents. Traffic police said the highways were like ice rinks.

Drivers were condemned by a senior officer in the Greater Manchester Police control room. "An accident was quickly followed by others because motorists were going too fast despite the warnings of the police to slow down," he said. "Speed limits did not have any effect."

John Chatter, writes from Manchester: Overhead lighting at a cost of about £30,000 is to be installed on the M62 later this year. Contrary to fears expressed by the Greater Manchester Police, the new lighting will be installed on the M62 later this year. Contrary to fears expressed by the Greater Manchester Police, the new lighting will be installed on the M62 later this year.



Heavy lorries crowding the M62 yesterday as accident reports flooded in from motorways in north-west England.

jury, occurred on their stretch of the M62 in the first 10 months of 1976. Many accidents took place on the two-mile Irwell valley stretch, which descends almost to sea level and is often shrouded in fog.

West Yorkshire Police, who are responsible for about 30 miles of the road, including the whole of the stretch over the Pennines, reported 69 accidents, with three deaths and 110 injuries in 1975 and 45 killed and 70 injured in the first nine months of 1976.

Tenders for lighting the Irwell valley stretch are to be invited by Greater Manchester Council in April, although the council does not necessarily expect the lighting greatly to reduce the accident rate.

The road is carrying far more traffic than had been expected. 65,000 vehicles in 16 hours on the last count, a quarter of

them heavy lorries. It serves both as a long-distance link between the west and east coasts and as a ring road for Greater Manchester.

On the Irwell valley stretch heavy lorries tend to occupy both inner lanes. Car drivers tend to select the outside lane to avoid congestion and many have to cross two lanes of slow-moving, nose-to-tail traffic to reach turning-off points.

Mr Donald Eliza, Greater Manchester's assistant chief constable for traffic and com-

munications, denies suggestions by many private motorists that lorry drivers are immune from police action in the area. He says 24 prosecutions are pending since the last serious multiple collision in the Irwell valley on December 14.

The convention also provides that a similar reduction or disallowance of a claim shall apply where the fault contributing to the injury is that of a servant or agent of a claimant.

"In contrast to this the only defences available to the producer, for which the directive provides, are for him to prove either that he did not put the defective article into circulation or that it was not defective when he did so," the Lords committee states.

"On the face of it, this would appear to prohibit any disallowance or reduction of a claim on the ground of contributory negligence. In our opinion, if any directive is to be made, it is essential that it should deal expressly with the legal consequences of fault on the part of the injured person or the claimant which contributed to the damage that he has sustained."

Meanwhile villagers have launched an appeal fund for the injured children. They also pledged to start a new campaign to get a secondary school built in the village.

Mr Derek Sowell, the county deputy director of education, said yesterday: "There are not enough children in Bilsthorpe to support even a small comprehensive school. I hope that within a few days the parents will realize the difficulties and send their children back to school."

Parents boycott school after bus crash

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

School buses left Bilsthorpe, Nottinghamshire, almost empty yesterday as parents carried out their boycott decision after Wednesday's crash in which 70 children were injured.

Only a few pupils turned up for the six buses, which normally take 300 children from Bilsthorpe to the Joseph Whitaker Comprehensive School at Rainworth, near Mansfield.

A nurse stood by at the school in case of delayed shock

Mrs Maude Tuck, whose son, aged 16, was in the crash, said: "Some children are so frightened of buses now that it may take two to three weeks before they dare use them again. Some mothers are saying that they will never use the buses again."

Sixteen children and a bus driver were still detained in Mansfield General Hospital last night. The accident, on Wednesday, involved two school buses and a coal lorry.

Mr Derek Sowell, the county deputy director of education, said yesterday: "There are not enough children in Bilsthorpe to support even a small comprehensive school. I hope that within a few days the parents will realize the difficulties and send their children back to school."

Muddle delays change in compensation law

By George Clark Political Correspondent

Changes in the law on compensation for personal injury, damage to property or any other loss caused by defective products are to be proposed in reports from the Law Commission, to be published soon. But government action will be delayed because of a muddle in the preparation of a European Community directive covering the same subject.

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, in a report prepared by Lord Diplock, Lord of Appeal and a member of the Lord Chancellor's law reform committee, point out that the directive clashes with the draft European convention on product liability, which is open for ratification by member states of the Council of Europe, and which would ensure a wider area for legal harmonization.

In particular, Lord Diplock's committee says the convention states that contributory negligence by the injured person or claimant (in the case of fatal injury) may give rise to a reduction or disallowance of the claim.

The convention also provides that a similar reduction or disallowance of a claim shall apply where the fault contributing to the injury is that of a servant or agent of a claimant.

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Lord Diplock and his colleagues call attention to another feature of the EEC directive. It seeks to limit the liability of the producer "for all personal injuries caused by identical articles having the same defect" to 25 million European units of account (£10.4m).

The purpose is to keep the potential liability of a producer within limits that can be covered by insurance at a premium that is not so high as to necessitate an unreasonable increase in the price of the product.

The Lords committee says such limitation calls for express provision about how it should be applied between the various claimants.

"Is each claimant to be paid in full until the limitation amount is exhausted, with latecomers getting nothing?" the Lords committee asks. "Or is it, as in the international conventions mentioned here, to be divided ratably among all the claimants?"

Those two conventions, however, apply to damage caused on a single occasion, which makes it practicable within a reasonably short period to ascertain who are claimants and what the total amount of claims is likely to be.

But the fact that an injury has been caused by a defective article may not become apparent until long after articles having the same defect have been put on the market or even long after they have been consumed by the claimant or the claimant's parent, the committee says.

The period of uncertainty about the proportion of the amount recoverable by an individual claimant may be prolonged until the end of 10 years, the maximum period of claim written into the directive.

"The proposed directive provides no solution to any of these problems," the report concludes. "It contains serious deficiencies, and Parliament should not proceed with its further consideration until after the law commissions had reported."

In brief

Paraffin to cost more

The maximum retail price of paraffin will rise by 34p a gallon from midnight tonight, pushing up the price to between 45p and 47p, depending on grade and area.

The oil companies are believed to have asked the Price Commission for an increase of 5p a gallon because of the higher cost of crude oil, caused mainly by the fall in the value of the pound.

Summons served on Princess

Mr Walter Stansfield, Chief Constable of Derbyshire, disclosed yesterday that a summons, alleging speeding on the M1, has been served on Princess Anne. She was stopped by a police car on November 27, and her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, was with her.

The summons is returnable at Alfreton magistrates' court on January 21.

Helicopter patrol

Two long-range helicopters from the Royal Naval Air station at Culdrose, Cornwall, are to join patrols off the south-west coast to watch for breaches of Britain's 200-mile fishing limit. The helicopter crews will be asked to confirm sightings by RAF aircraft and a naval frigate and take on-the-spot photographs.

The Prince of Wales

The Prince of Wales will return to the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, next month for a refresher course on flying the Jet Provost trainer. He was recently promoted to the rank of wing commander.

Lord Goodman

Peter Wilby interviews Lord Goodman, "the busiest man in England". Maurice Wiles examines theology; and Dennis Welland reviews the new Oxford Book of American Verse, all in The Times Higher Education Supplement today.

Education accused of failure

From Tim Devlin Education Correspondent

Madeley, Staffordshire

The education system has failed to keep pace with changes in industry and society, and much of its philosophy and content are outmoded, Sir Arthur Bryan, chairman of Wedgwood, the pottery company, told about two hundred leading educationists at the North of England Education Conference at Madeley College of Education, Staffordshire, yesterday.

For many years, he said, Britain had not received value for money in education because schools were providing mediocre recruits to industry.

It was this clash at an important education conference between industry and education since the Prime Minister called last October for closer links between the two. Sir Arthur, the first non-member of the Wedgwood family to run the family firm, was complimentary on his courage in entering the lion's den, but was challenged on most of his points.

His most provocative suggestion was that the abolition of grammar schools was widening the gulf between industry and education and contributing to

the mediocre output of school-leavers. It ran counter to an earlier address from Mr Peter Browning, Chief Education Officer of Bedfordshire, who said the best hope for ending Britain's industrial difficulties lay in the development of comprehensive schools.

Sir Arthur called for teaching to be reorganized so that young people should be better prepared for work. He said industry should make itself more attractive to school-leavers and graduates and encourage employees to do further training.

Calling for better careers guidance, Sir Arthur argued that a spell in industry would equip teachers to become better counsellors in steering young people into their first jobs.

Sir Arthur advocated a return to formal teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic as the grounding best suited to alleviate Britain's difficulties in the industrial sector. He complained that many leavers were virtually unemployable because they were illiterate and innumerate. New recruits to his company had to be given expensive remedial education in mathematics and English.

"Industry has the right to expect the education system fully to recognize and cater for its needs," he said. "The least of its worries should have to be education. That part of the wealth of the nation that goes into education should be providing the best trained and the best qualified young men and women that we can attract into industry."

Sir Arthur, who is 53 and was educated at a top High School, Stoke-on-Trent, said grammar schools provided a sound, if somewhat old-fashioned education but they also instilled standards of social behaviour and a certain esprit de corps which made it easier for their products to be absorbed into industry.

Earlier, Mr Browning told the conference that Britain's greatest difficulties lay in the field of industrial relations. The best hope lay in the development of comprehensive schools, where the future workers and the managers would be educated together.

But he gave a warning that it might be 20 years before the process of comprehensive re-organization could work through properly.

Students' union sells its insurance company

By Frances Gibb Times Higher Education Supplement

The National Union of Students has agreed in principle to sell its company, Endsleigh Insurance (Brokers) Ltd, to Gouda, the eighth largest insurance company in the Netherlands. Gouda will pay the NUS £300,000 in cash over three years and 15 per cent commission on all business arriving from the company.

That is likely to amount to £20,000 a year on the company's present performance. This year it made a record surplus of £100,000. The decision follows the collapse in November of the NUS's travel and printing companies, which went into liquidation with combined debts of about £300,000. That left the union without the funds necessary to maintain Endsleigh Insurance as a profitable enterprise.

In a letter to all local student unions yesterday Mr

Christopher Morgan, treasurer of the NUS, said: "We are concerned to ensure that when the sale is completed Endsleigh will be providing the best possible insurance brokerage service to NUS members."

In return for that assurance, he said the NUS would agree to promote Endsleigh Insurance exclusively to its members.

Gouda Insurance is the company with which Endsleigh put most of its policies. It has agreed to maintain the company's management and staff at the present level of about two hundred, and the NUS is to have two out of the six directors on its board.

Fee differentials: The National Union of Students has launched a campaign to try to persuade university authorities not to carry out proposed increases in tuition fees next September (a Staff Reporter writes). Boycotts of lectures and occupations throughout the country are planned from the middle of next month.

Teacher cleared of assault on schoolboy

A jury of eight men and four women took only 10 minutes at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to acquit a teacher of an assault charge.

Wallace Edwin Cooper, aged 43, of Silverdale Road, Guiseley, near Leeds, was found not guilty of assaulting Gary Johnson, aged 12, of Pinder Street, Leeds, occasioning him actual bodily harm.

Mr Harold Muscroft, the recorder, ordered that Mr Cooper's costs should be paid out of central funds.

Mr Cooper said that he slapped the boy four times across the shoulders because he was disruptive during an English lesson at Ryecroft Middle School. The boy had been a thorough nuisance, truculent and rude and had sworn at him and had refused to behave.

Labour MP challenges the Chancellor

By Our Political Staff

Mr Brian Gould, Labour MP for Southampton, Test, said in his constituency last night that the Chancellor of the Exchequer "must be joking when he says that our exports have never been more competitive".

He said figures given to him by the Treasury and the Department of Trade showed that British export prices were significantly less competitive now than in 1973.

Noting that in the first 11 months of 1976 the exchange value of the pound fell by 46 per cent while export prices for manufacturers rose by 21 per cent, Mr Gould said: "We have a curious belief in this country that if we say something loudly, often, and in unison, it will be believed even though it is contradicted by all the facts."

Paying for Electricity and Gas. A Code of Practice.

We in the Gas and Electricity industries have always wanted our customers to enjoy the benefit of regular supplies.

So long as those supplies are paid for promptly.

Most people do pay their bills on time. But some find paying difficult because of genuine hardship.

We want to help and advise people as much as we can. So we have produced a Code of Practice which has been agreed with the Government.

The Code explains how we can help all customers who want to budget wisely for their bills.

There are pay-as-you-go schemes to suit many different needs.

It also explains how we can help to safeguard genuine hardship cases against disconnection.

We're particularly concerned to protect pensioners, breadwinners who are unemployed, and families who get Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement, or who have children under five years of age.

Copies of the Code are now available at all Gas and Electricity Board showrooms.

As the Code points out, we have a duty to see that bills are settled promptly. This is in everyone's interest. But where customers

genuinely do need assistance, then within the Code, we will do everything we reasonably can to help.

Payment of Domestic Electricity and Gas bills

A Code of Practice

WEST EUROPE

Señor Carrillo will use new found freedom to campaign for the return of 'La Pasionaria'

From William Chislett Madrid, Jan 6

The Spanish Communist Party is hoping that Señora Dolores Ibarruri, "La Pasionaria", its legendary president who is 82, will be able to return to Spain next month for the first time in 37 years. Señor Santiago Carrillo, the party's secretary general, told *The Times*.

Señor Carrillo, who was released on bail from Carabanchel prison a week ago pending possible though unlikely trial for illegal association—and so allowed to live legally in Spain—is using his freedom to fight for Señora Ibarruri's return.

"If she is refused permission we shall mount a national and international campaign and as a last resort she will arrive at Barajas airport illegally, although we hope this will not be necessary," he said.

The day he was released Señor Carrillo telephoned her in Moscow and she told him: "I have my bags packed."

Señor Carrillo now finds himself probably the most guarded man in Spain after Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, and King Juan Carlos. Outside the entrance to the block of flats where Señor Carrillo lives with his family on the edge of the working class district of Vallecas, two young party members check all his visitors. Further down the street, the police watch a distance.

For the extreme rightists Señor Carrillo is public enemy No. 1. They blame him for the killings of 12,000 prisoners at the beginning of the civil war at Carabanchel and elsewhere.

The publication of General Franco's civil war memoirs, *El Alcazar*, claimed in an article on Monday that Señor Carrillo had ordered the killings.

Señor Carrillo asked himself whether this was true or not. He was long before his arrest. He was long before his arrest.

"The government did not take me here seriously

prosecutor concerning republican atrocities.

Señor Carrillo read out a passage about Paracuellos which said that the killings had been carried out between November 1 and November 7, 1936. He said: "I did not take up my position as head of public order until the night of the seventh." He then turned to pictures of documents and said: "Not one of them is signed by me."

He had been responsible only for the decision to transfer the prisoners from Madrid to Valencia after November 7. On the way, "forces which at that moment we could not determine stopped the convoy and killed the prisoners."

He is writing a letter to the press about the matter. "It is only now that I have become politically important that this campaign has started," he said.

"If we begin like this we shall never have reconciliation but only a spirit of revenge which will make the goal of democracy and peaceful change impossible. If we take the responsibilities now on both sides, and those of the nationalists were enormous after the war with over 200,000 executions, there will be another civil war and not reconciliation."

Señor Carrillo believes that reconciliation must be preceded by a total amnesty to include the political prisoners and acts of violence committed for political reasons.

"If after this amnesty there is further terrorism then this is another matter," he said.

His own release from prison has to some extent solved the thorny problem of the legalization of the Communist Party. He denied, however, that his arrest had been deliberately planned by the party and that the Government knew where he was long before his arrest.

"The government did not take me here seriously

until I gave the press conference in December and then I took steps to get me. They refused until then to believe the rumours that I was here," he said.

He entered Spain on February 17, apparently as a tourist crossing the French border. He would not confirm this specifically but denied that he had come by way of Portugal.

"Spain is very easy to enter. I can tell you that most of the times that I entered Spain during my 11-month illegal period here I was not even asked for my passport. I entered like any other tourist."

His experience of living 22 years clandestinely in France undoubtedly helped.

Later this month the party is to publish a list of its candidates for the forthcoming general election. Señor Carrillo seems confident that the party will be able to take part in it.

He said that his party would not form an electoral alliance with the Socialists but did, however, reveal that there might be a wide alliance, including the Progressive Christian Democrats, for the election for the Senate.

There will thus be no alliance in the poll for the Lower House which is elected by a form of proportional representation, but only a spirit of reconciliation which will make the goal of democracy and peaceful change impossible. If we take the responsibilities now on both sides, and those of the nationalists were enormous after the war with over 200,000 executions, there will be another civil war and not reconciliation."

Señor Carrillo believes that reconciliation must be preceded by a total amnesty to include the political prisoners and acts of violence committed for political reasons.

"If after this amnesty there is further terrorism then this is another matter," he said.

His own release from prison has to some extent solved the thorny problem of the legalization of the Communist Party. He denied, however, that his arrest had been deliberately planned by the party and that the Government knew where he was long before his arrest.

"The government did not take me here seriously

Herr Schmidt in Spain to offer advice

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Jan 6

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, arrived in Madrid today on an official visit, after spending Christmas on the Costa del Sol. He is said to be bringing advice for both King Juan Carlos, and Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister.

The Chancellor's first meeting was with Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, before his meeting with Señor Suarez.

Tomorrow morning, Herr Schmidt is to call on the King at the Zarzuela Palace. The meeting had not figured on the original programme drawn up by the Spanish authorities.

The evening newspaper *Informaciones* quotes German sources as saying that Herr Schmidt, if asked, will advise the King and the Prime Minister that Spain should legalize all political parties including the Communists, that the

National Movement and the German trade unions should be abolished, the Ministry of Information and Tourism should drop the information side of its business, and the three military ministries should be combined into one.

Señor Suarez is expected to talk to his German visitor about Spain's serious economic problems and about its need for help to overcome them.

It is believed that the question of which colour system Spain should adopt for television—the German Pal or the French Secam—will come up in the conversation. West German interests hope to reach the Latin American market through Spain.

The Basque campaign for a broader amnesty is going on. Two young men today kept a pro-amnesty vigil on top of a factory chimney of the Babcock and Wilcox machine tool plant near Bilbao.

The town council of Hernani, near San Sebastian, decided to

send protests to the King, the Prime Minister, the commanding officer of the Civil Guard, and the provincial governor, complaining that a Civil Guard detachment had broken up a peaceful new year's party on the Hernani parents' association, entering the hall, ordering people out, and firing their weapons.

In Córdoba, Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the former Ambassador in London, who is considered as a possible future Prime Minister, denounced the Basque plea for total amnesty. He said: "Nobody can defend a man whose hands are blood-stained."

Madrid, Jan 6—King Juan Carlos, in speech to generals marking the Epiphany, appealed for discipline and loyalty in the armed forces.

"We are living delicate moments," he said, asking the generals to obey orders for the good of the country, even if these were against their personal convictions.—Reuter.

Jail break blow to Italian penal system

From Our Correspondent Rome, Jan 6

Italy's overburdened and inequitable penal system suffered another blow with the escape last night of four inmates of Fossombrone jail, near Pesaro.

Only yesterday the chief public prosecutor in the Supreme Court, Dr. Ubaldo Boccia, reported that three-quarters of Italian prisons were insolvent, and unoccupied last year. Last night's incident, the second big jail break this year, seems to indicate that those who are imprisoned would have little difficulty in escaping.

Last year 359 prisoners escaped from Italian jails, an average of nearly one a day. The rate so far this year is more than three a day, after the mass escape of 13 prisoners from the San Vittore jail in Milan on Sunday night. All 13 are still at large.

The prison governor, who had repeatedly complained to the justice ministry that his jail, like most others, was hopelessly understaffed, said that all 220 inmates could have got out had they wanted to.

Escapes have been made easier by recent jail reforms which give prisoners greater freedom to receive visitors, and therefore also weapons and other escape aids, and to maintain contact with the outside world by telephone.

Unions spurn Andreotti plan for cutting inflation rate

From Peter Nichols Rome, Jan 6

Trade union officials from all parts of Italy met today, faced with the virtual failure of the Government and the three trade union federations to agree on measures for reducing labour costs and the inflation rate.

Last night union leaders rejected proposals by Signor Andreotti, the Prime Minister, for changes in the automatic cost-of-living increases for workers. He suggested that the methods of calculating these rises should be modified and that for a set need increases should be granted every six months instead of every three months.

The Prime Minister also explained that if the lira suffered further weakening, he would have to introduce measures for curtailing the sale of meat—the proposal was apparently to close butchers' shops on certain days of the week—and for rationing petrol or reducing its use.

The unions would not hear of the idea of tampering with the cost-of-living increases. Their leaders apparently stated that if the Government went ahead with such changes over the heads of the unions they would no longer abide by the strategy of waiting to see what the Government's economic policy might be. This was taken to include a threat of more strikes.

Setback for the Gaullists

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Jan 6

M. Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, the dynamic and controversial deputy of Lorraine, and former president of the Gaullist Party, today said that day leaders of the Gaullist movement, the Regional Council, the economic authority for the area, defeating M. Pierre Messmer, the former Gaullist Prime Minister, on the fourth ballot.

It was the first of a series of confrontations between the parties of the Government majority. The clash between the Gaullists and Independent Republicans on the one hand, and Gaullists on the other, took place in an area where the antagonism between them has always been very lively.

Both M. Messmer and M. Servan-Schreiber are national personalities in their respective parties, and the latter's victory today is bound to encourage the Independent Republicans and Centrists.

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Anger at light sentence in Lisbon

From Richard Wigg Lisbon, Jan 6

Lawyers for the family of a Portuguese sculptor who died at the hands of the political police of the Salazar regime, are to appeal against a Lisbon court-martial verdict which means a man involved in the crime will be freed from jail in 10 months' time.

José Dias Coelho, the sculptor, was a member of the underground Communist Party when he was shot in a police ambush in a Lisbon street in December, 1961.

The court dismissed a murder charge against Antonio Domingues, a Pide agent who had 11 years' service when he was arrested soon after the 1974 revolution. It ruled that he had fired the fatal shot at the sculptor, but "without intent to kill and to prevent his escape."

It accordingly sentenced him to three years and six months

imprisonment. As he has been in custody since his arrest he will have only 10 months more to serve.

The verdict led to protests from the public gallery. It has heightened the controversy about how the military courts are conducting the Pide trials.

In this week five other Pide agents have all been immediately released having spent more time behind bars awaiting trial than the military sentence imposed upon them.

"We still hope the Supreme Military Tribunal will substitute for this sentence another which will be exemplary," Dr. Fernando Soares, the Coelho family's lawyer said last night.

Members of the governing Socialist Party, as well as Communists and Social Democrats have expressed reservations about the Pide verdicts, but there is also a reluctance to put pressure on the courts. Pres-

ident Eanes, asked for his views last night, declared: "The courts have given their rulings and I have to accept them without discussion."

Meanwhile Henrique Seixas, a former personal bodyguard of Dr. Salazar, is facing trial on charges of torturing political prisoners when head of the guards at the Tarrafal concentration camp. The Association of Ex-political Prisoners has appealed for a demonstration outside the court and has collected testimony from 14 former inmates which it wants the court to consider.

President Eanes last night denied reports in right-wing Lisbon newspapers that left-wing members of the Council of the Revolution had discussed replacing Dr. Soares, the Socialist Prime Minister, by a military figure during last month's difficult budget debates in parliament.

OVERSEAS

Russia to withhold UN dues for Sinai force

From Peter Strafford New York, Jan 6

The Russians have announced that they are refusing to pay a substantial part of their dues for the financing of the United Nations emergency force in Sinai. The surprise announcement came in a note last month to Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, has aroused fears of a new diplomatic crisis over Middle East arrangements.

The Soviet refusal will not have any immediate effect on the force itself. It is seen in New York as being more of an attempt by the Russians to assert their presence in any Middle East moves at a moment when the Carter Administration is preparing to see what it can do.

The main point made in the Russian Note is that they had nothing to do with the second Sinai disengagement agreement, which was negotiated by Dr. Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, and signed on September 4, 1975. They describe the agreement as having circumvented the Geneva peace conference.

Because of this, they say, the Soviet Union cannot bear any financial responsibility for the implementation of the agreement, including any additional expenses caused. It is therefore going to pay only half of the expenses for the period from October 1975 to October 1976.

It is still not quite clear what the implications will be, partly because of the ambiguity of wording of the Note. It says that the Russians will pay half of their contributions "amounting to \$6,048,985 (£3,552,340)". According to United Nations figures, the total Russian contribution should be \$16,500,000.

At a press conference today, Mr. Oleg Troyanovsky, the new Soviet permanent representative, refused to clear up the matter. He made two points: that the Russians could not bear responsibility for measures taken without their involvement and that they regarded measures of this sort as a temporary solution.

The Russian move came as a complete surprise to United Nations officials and to other member states.

Two jailed for extortion plot

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Jan 6

The two men found guilty of extortion in the 1975 "kidnapping" of Mr. Samuel Bronfman, the heir to a liquor fortune, were jailed today in White Plains, New York.

Mr. Mel Lynch, a fireman, was sentenced to a period of four, to 12 years, while Mr. Dominic Byrne, a chauffeur, was jailed for a period between three and nine years.

In their trial last year, both men were found not guilty of kidnapping Mr. Bronfman. They had told the court that the alleged kidnapping had been part of a plot organized by Mr. Bronfman to extort money from his father, Mr. Edgar Bronfman. But they were found guilty of extorting \$2.3m (£1.35m) in ransom.

Bank men for trial

Calvo, Jan 6.—Eight people, four of them senior officials in one of the main Egyptian banks, are to stand trial on charges of misconduct and seizure of public funds worth about £250,000.

Challenge to US defence chiefs over Soviet 'lead'

From Fred Emery Washington, Jan 6

Congress has quickly got down to the controversies of American-Soviet relations without waiting for Mr. Carter's inauguration. What is being called the "battle of the estimate" about supposed Soviet "superiority" over the United States has brought a challenge to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to say whether they agree.

Today the exiled Soviet dissident writer, Mr. Andrei Amalrik, appeared on Capitol Hill to issue his own challenge to Mr. Carter. He suggested that the United States should use grain and technology sales and long-term loans as the lever to get Soviet compliance with the human rights provisions of the Helsinki agreements.

"I was told by two Soviet economists that two bad harvests in a row without help would lead to the collapse of the economy," Mr. Amalrik, the author of *Will the Soviet Union survive into 1984?* declared.

In the same breath Mr. Amalrik, who was testifying before the newly established Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, wondered aloud whether the Soviet Union was left in the West.

"In dealing with the Soviet leaders you must have great patience and great strength of will. I don't see anybody in the West who combines these two qualities. But maybe I am wrong."

Mr. Amalrik's prescription of a tougher, yet cautious détente coincides with the fierce controversy over Soviet influence and military capability. It is also reported here that the United States has been quietly retargeting some of its long range missiles to include big underground depots and missile installations which the Soviet Government has been dispersing over the past six

Mr Richard has constructive talks with President of Mozambique

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Jan 6

Mr. Ivor Richard, the chairman of the Rhodesian settlement talks, held a cordial and constructive two-hour meeting in Maputo today with President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

The President held out the possibility that the guerrilla war in Rhodesia could be halted if acceptable means of transferring power from white-minority to black-majority rule could be found.

The Mozambique stage of Mr. Richard's talks this morning was generally expected to be one of the most difficult. The country provides bases for the "biggest" of the nationalist guerrilla armies and permits the military wing of the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) to make militant statements over the state radio.

However, Mr. Richard apparently found the Mozambican leader in a cooperative mood. In a brief address before the talks started at the apartment presidential palace this morning, President Machel said he thought it would be possible to find the "mechanisms" by which power could

Mr Carter's victory becomes official

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Jan 6

Mr. Jimmy Carter was today officially proclaimed President-elect. The casually informed assumed that happened on November 2 in the election.

But the general election technically produced electors, who voted in colleges in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia on December 13. That produced the unofficial result of 297 electoral college votes for Mr. Carter, 240 for Mr. Ford, and one for Mr. Reagan. This last in Washington State by an elector who voted his own preference rather than his state's.

Today, those votes were counted and certified officially at a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as president of the Senate, proclaimed the official result.

Meanwhile, the first casualty has occurred among Mr. Carter's young assistants. Mr. Greg Schneider, aged 29, his personal assistant throughout the campaign, will not now be getting the White House post intended for him.

He was to have become president-elect's certified secretary. But a routine Federal Bureau of Investigation "vetting" has uncovered some bounced cheques and unpaid loans.

Czech dissidents' charter will face test today

Continued from page 1

The promulgation of the two documents, the manifesto says, was an emphatic reminder of how many "basic rights of the citizen in our country for the time being—sadly—apply only on paper."

Tens of thousands were denied the right to work in their chosen fields, their views differed from those of officialdom. Further, they often became the target of the most varied discrimination and chicanery on the part of the authorities and social organizations. Robbed of any chance at all of defending (themselves), they became in practical terms victims of a (form of) apartheid.

Children were denied access to education because of their parents' views, freedom of artistic expression was denied (the document cites as an example the recent trial of a rock music group). Ideas and criticism were subject to openly menacing censorship and suppression.

The right to privacy was infringed by the tapping of telephones and bugging of houses, spying on the most personal lives, surveillance, searches of homes and secret denunciations by a network of informers. People were imprisoned for their views and persecuted in jail and the right to travel freely abroad did not exist.

The state bore the chief responsibility for preserving the citizen's rights, but every individual must also play his part in ensuring that ratified conventions were observed.

Consciousness of this shared responsibility, belief in the validity of commitment by the citizen and the will to make it, as well as the common need to find a new and more effective expression for it, have brought us to the decision to form Charter 77, whose inception we publicly announce today.

Burma clash

Rangoon, Jan 6.—A Burmese army column routed a band of 200 communist-trained Shan tribal rebels on December 31 near Meeshu township, southern Shan, killing one and capturing rifles and ammunition, it was officially announced yesterday.

Comecon to build an atomic plant in Cuba

Moscow, Jan 6.—Comecon the east European trading group of nations, plans to build a nuclear power station in Cuba, Tass said today.

It will be Cuba's first nuclear plant and plans for it were foreshadowed in an agreement signed last April in Moscow by the Soviet Union and Cuba, which joined Comecon in 1972.

Tass said new atomic generating facilities were also being installed and nuclear power stations built in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia. Preparatory work was under way for the construction of a nuclear power station in Poland.—Reuter.

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Relaxed moment for the Tyler family under the tree that was their home in the Ethiopian rebels' desert camp. TI photograph was taken by Mr Jon Swain of The Sunday Times who was held captive in the same camp.

Tylers slept under tree in the open

Continued from page 1

it was great mental stress for us. Two days before Christmas they learnt they were being released.

Mrs Tyler, who has a PhD in zoology from Cambridge University, and who was carrying out the first survey of Ethiopian birds for the Ethiopian

Wild Life Society, added: "Thank God it's all over now."

Mr Tyler said the guerrillas had captured them because they wanted publicity for their cause, namely self-determination for the more than four million inhabitants of the Tigre province. It was wrongly suggested at first that the guerrillas suspected they were spies.

For most of their captivity the family lived under a tree in a wadi, a dry river bed, in the desert. "We slept out on the ground," Mrs Tyler said. "We had no cover. After six months we had some rain and then they provided us with a tent where we slept at nights. But

it was only big enough for three of us, and my husband still slept outside."

They ate mostly canned food, but the guerrillas brought them dates and occasionally sweets for the children. They even had access to a radio but had to be careful about their movements during the day as this would attract Ethiopian aircraft looking for guerrillas.

Mr David Hunt, Conservative MP for Wirral, said he had asked the Foreign Office to hold an inquiry into the whole episode to see if all the steps taken had been the right ones. "What has concerned me all along is the length of time the

family were kept in captivity. Eight months is a dreadful length of time, and nothing was done at all in the first three months. But I feel that as they have been released in good health, the approach of the Foreign Office in dealing with the guerrillas through the Sudanese Government had been justified."

He wanted to ask Mr Tyler if he had been warned of possible guerrilla activity in the area. Mr Jon Swain, reporter for *The Sunday Times* who had been in the same camp in northern Eritrea with them, had the impression that they were unaware of any danger.

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OVERSEAS

Japanese will strengthen coastal defences to counter Carter pledge of withdrawal from Korea

From Peter Hain, Tokyo, Jan 6.

The Japanese Government is drawing up contingency plans to strengthen its coastal defences in the event of a withdrawal of American troops from the Korean peninsula, the closest point to South Korea.

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tion of America's military presence in South Korea as long as the communist regime in Pyongyang remains belligerent.

Both countries have embarked on a vigorous diplomatic campaign to dissuade Mr Carter and South Korea has now turned to Japan for support.

Mr Yanagita said today that South Korea has called for a round of ministerial talks to discuss Mr Carter's plans.

Reports from Seoul suggest that President Park hopes to form a "diplomatic front" with Japan to convince Washington that a further reduction of American troops in Korea will threaten the security of America's two allies.

However, the Japanese Government suggested today that it did not believe that a joint initiative would help convince the Carter Administration of the dangers of withdrawal.

"Japan realizes that the United States must eventually withdraw its forces from South Korea. We would like to see it happen under a gradual and methodical plan, when the situation is less dangerous. The South Koreans have their own argument."

"Although Japan is a third party, we are very much concerned. . . . We will put our case to Washington, but I do not think that joint action might be an appropriate measure. However, we will not refuse to discuss the matter with South Korea at ministerial talks," Mr Yanagita added.

Mr Fumihiko Togo, the

Japanese Ambassador in Washington, first attacked Mr Carter's proposal last November, describing the American presence as a "safety valve".

Government officials argue that Mr Carter is attempting to renege on the "Korea clause" ratified in 1969 during talks between Mr Eisaku Sato and President Nixon. The clause, inserted into a joint communiqué, stated that "the security of the Republic of Korea is essential to Japan's own security".

As Japan announced the shift in its defence policy this morning, letters to leading newspapers denounced the Government's posture. In an angry letter to the *Asahi Shimbun*, a Korean resident in Japan wrote: "Regrettably Japan has yet to learn from its past errors. The Japanese Government (as former colonialists) apparently still finds it expedient to devise plans for the Korean people and impose them on Koreans."

"This time the grand plan requires an American military strength as the means to an objective which seemed profitable to Tokyo against Mr Carter's wishes. The tragic history of antagonism between the two peoples was caused by the egocentric greed of the Japanese."

"What Japanese officials are saying is: the Korean peninsula must be kept divided. The American troops should remain there indefinitely to enforce this division because Japanese profits require it."

Israel media reject blame for Ofer suicide

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Jan 6.

Leading Israeli newspapers today accused the Government of trying to make the media a scapegoat in the suicide of Abraham Ofer, the Minister of Housing. Mr Ofer shot himself this week while police were investigating accusations of financial irregularities involving a building company he headed before he became a minister.

The press called for a continuation of the investigation to reveal the full truth. An authorized source at police headquarters in Jerusalem said a decision would be taken probably next week.

Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, said in a funeral oration yesterday that he personally accepted Mr Ofer's protestations of innocence. He added that the tragedy should shock people into realising the dangers of prejudging persons in the rewritten or spoken word. The newspaper *Haaretz* said this was a transparent attempt to blame the media for the tragedy.

The paper said information about the Ofer investigations came from a source that could not be ignored.

Another paper, *Marriv*, protested that when corruption, embezzlement or bribery came to light the press was blamed for failing in its duty as watchdog of the administration. But when the media fought corruption it was accused of character assassination, a witchhunt and adjudicating in headlines.

Chairman Hua taking on the appearance of a military figurehead

China comes under increasing army control

From David Benavie, Hongkong, Jan 6.

A series of wall posters in Peking today attracted keen public attention by claiming that Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Vice-Chairman of the Communist Party, had been victimized by Chiang Ching, Mao Tse-tung's widow, when she had him ousted from office last April.

The poster also accused Chiang Ching of inciting the riots on April 5 which were used as the pretext for Mr Teng's dismissal, according to a Reuter report from Peking. Throughout the summer the Chinese press had blamed Mr Teng for the riots.

Observers in Hongkong believe this to be a clear sign that Mr Teng—who has recently been seen in public again—will soon be given a senior position in the leadership. It is thought possible that he may be given the job of purging and rebuilding the demoralized Communist Party.

The People's Liberation Army has officially assumed control of the most important railway junction in China at Chengchow, in Honan province on the Yellow River. This junction controls the intersection of the principal east-west and north-south railways, without which the country would grind to a halt.

The Army's assumption of control at Chengchow, which came two days before the new year, reflects the feeling on the part of the military commanders that the railways are too important to be subjected to civilian mismanagement of political unrest among the workers, as has happened for some time past.

It will be no surprise if other key railway junctions and even certain industries of strategic importance are also brought officially under the control of the military.

China is heading towards a form of military dictatorship, indeed to a considerable extent it already is under one. The question is how far military control will be extended into the civilian administration, as happened on a big scale when the Cultural Revolution got out of hand in 1967, and how long the Army commanders will want to run basically civilian operations while the country puts its affairs in order.

The assumption of important responsibilities by regional military commanders also raises the spectre of conflicts among them, and between them and the Politburo in Peking, which has been dominated by the military since the October coup.

The Army's role is particularly important at a time when China has undergone civil disturbances as a result of the dismissal of Mr Teng and the related issues, as well as the death of Chairman Mao in September. The disturbances—which have affected the provinces of Fukien, Yunnan and Szechwan among others, as well as the city of Paochow south of Peking—appear to have been largely brought under control, undoubtedly through the use of the armed forces.

Against this background of increasing military control, the position of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, an essentially civilian leader, is beginning to look more and more like that of a figurehead.

Churchill thought Hiroshima right

From John Best, Ottawa, Jan 6.

Winston Churchill told William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, in 1946 that he was prepared to account to God for the atomic bombing of Japan.

Mr King's personal diary recounts an unusual after-dinner conversation with Mr Churchill on a visit Mr King made to London less than a year after the end of the war.

Mr King died in 1950. His voluminous diary is being made

public in stages by the Canadian Public Archives.

In their conversation, he and Mr Churchill talked about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and about a life after death, according to an entry by Mr King on May 22, 1946.

"The way Churchill put it when discussing it with me was he expected that he would have to account to God as he had to his own conscience for the decision."

"That God would ask him

why he had done this and that he would reply he had seen the terrors of war . . . that there were thousands of lives—fine American soldiers—all of which would likely be destroyed or tortured."

Mr King wrote that Mr Churchill had feared the war would drag on and civilization would break down. "He had to decide what in the end would be best for mankind and he felt that he, regardless of what the consequences might be, had done what was right."

Three terrorists hanged publicly in Syria

Damascus, Jan 6.—Three men convicted of bombings in Damascus and Aleppo which killed a number of people were publicly hanged in Syria today.

Jaber Ahmed Rabbo, a Palestinian, said to be a member of the Black September Palestinian terrorist group, was hanged in a Damascus square. The others, both Syrians, were hanged in Aleppo.

Indian censors take easier line towards 'The Times'

By Our Foreign Staff.

The past two months have seen an apparent easing in the attitude of the Indian censors towards *The Times*. In November, only four issues of the newspaper were banned and in December none was prevented from circulating.

These figures contrast with September and October during which 14 issues of the newspaper were banned, together with two issues of each of the paper's three supplements.

The criteria employed by the Indian censors are unknown but each of the four issues banned in November has been a story relating to the subcontinent.

The issue of November 1, which was banned, contained an article reporting a revolt in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. The issue of the following day was also ban-

ned. This carried a page 1 article giving details of the 14 issues of the newspaper banned in India during September and October.

On November 3 the newspaper was again banned. This issue contained, on the inside pages, a dispatch from *The Times* local correspondent in Delhi reporting the massive approval given by Indian MPs to the Constitution (Forty-Fourth Amendment) Bill. News agency material on the same subject contained critical comments by opposition politicians.

The most recent issue banned was on November 6 when the newspaper reported a press briefing on the September rioting in the North-West Frontier area of Pakistan in which government spokesmen said 62 people had died in protests against government reforms.

Pakistan decides to let six hijackers go free

Islamabad, Jan 6.—Pakistan has decided to release six men who hijacked an Indian airliner last September and forced it to fly to Lahore.

The Government said the evidence available was not sufficient to justify criminal proceedings against them. Last October an official spokesman said they would be tried on charges of violating Pakistani laws.

The identity of the hijackers has never been disclosed but they are thought to be Muslims. They were arrested at Lahore airport after releasing all 78 passengers and crew.

Delhi, Jan 6.—India today deplored Pakistan's decision, saying the move was one of those which would worsen relations between the two countries.

Report awaited on Australian nuclear waste

Canberra, Jan 6.—Australia is unlikely to ask Britain to pay for safety measures for radioactive waste left over from British-run nuclear testing and buried in Australia, senior Defence Department officials said today.

Commenting on a report in *The Times* today, the officials said, however, that the final decision would rest with Mr James Killen, the Defence Minister, who is on holiday.

Mr Killen's office said the minister would not comment on the report until he had received the findings of a defence inquiry into precisely what nuclear waste material was buried. Defence Department officials said the inquiry should be completed by the end of the month.—Reuter.

Five Africans burnt alive

Pretoria, South Africa, Jan 6.—Five Africans have been burnt alive in a witchcraft killing in a village here since Tuesday, according to police.

They were the latest victims of a series of murders which began during Christmas when a man and his wife were bound hand and foot and hung on to a bonfire, watched by hundreds of villagers. Scores of people have been arrested.—Reuter.

BBC to reopen Delhi bureau

Delhi, Jan 6.—The Indian Government has agreed to a request by the BBC to be allowed to reopen its bureau and post a correspondent in Delhi, a government spokesman disclosed today.

The BBC closed down its operations in India soon after the state of emergency was declared in June 1975.—Agence France-Press.

Mr Foot angered by Levin article on Mrs Gandhi

By Our Political Staff.

Mr Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, last night described as "a monstrous lie" Bernard Levin's statement in *The Times* yesterday that "the truth is that Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator and is going to be".

He was speaking at a reception arranged by the India League in London.

The text of the relevant part of Mr Foot's speech was as follows:

"Mr Bernard Levin concludes an article in *The Times* today with the words: 'The truth is that Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator and is going to be.' Let me say at once and without any equivocation whatever: so little is that the truth that it adds up to a monstrous lie. Furthermore, the peddling of such lies can do infinite damage to relations between our two countries."

Let me add at once, to avoid any misinterpretations: of course, it is right that people who respect democracy and liberty everywhere should express our deep anxiety about the suspension of various civil liberties which has occurred in India under the emergency, of course it is right that we should express our deep desire and interest to see those liberties restored, and, more especially, to see free elections held.

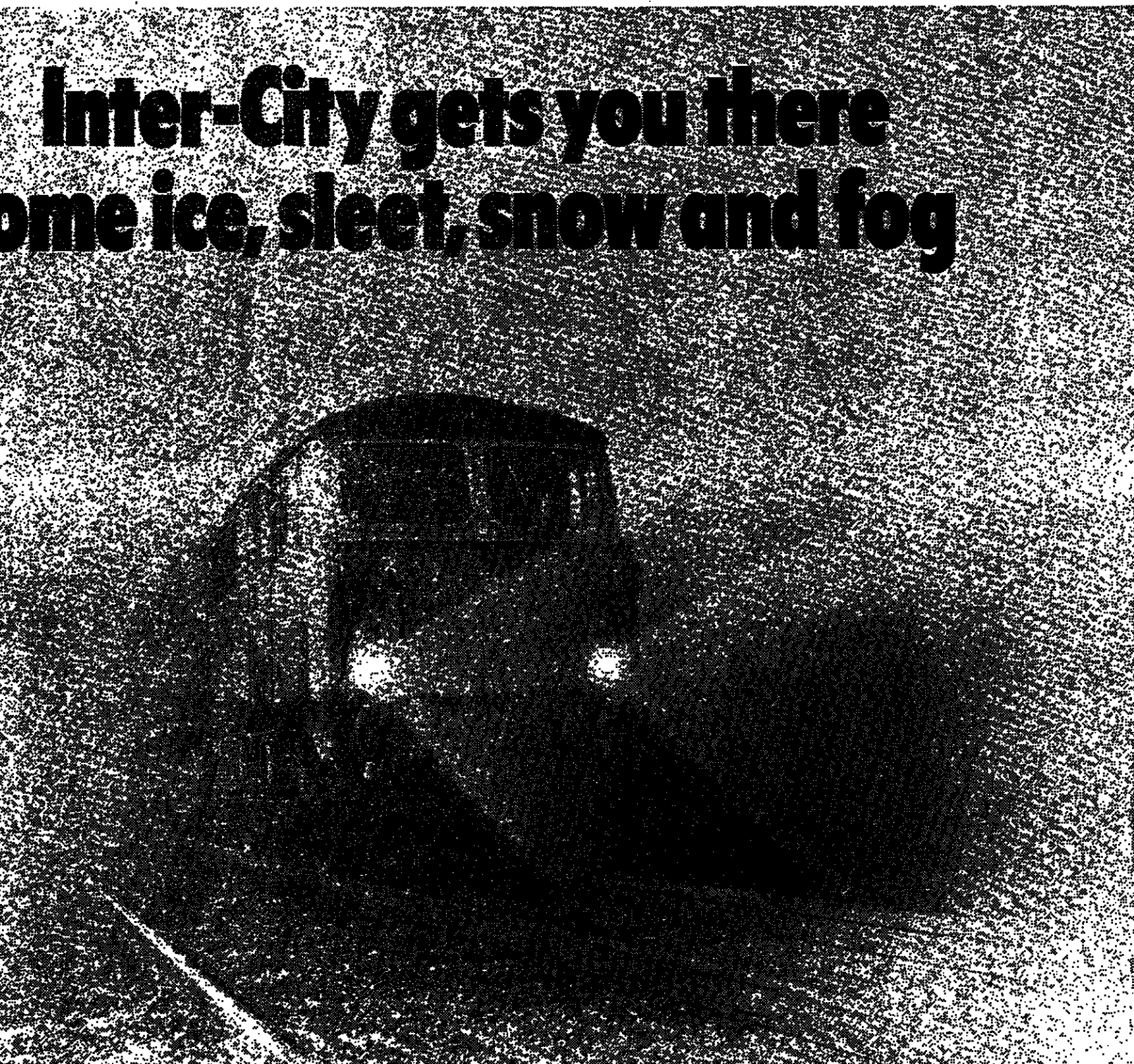
Of course it is right that we

should examine with the greatest care, and criticize with the utmost vigour, if we think it desirable, the proposed changes in the Indian constitution—although many of those changes, we should note, will give to the Indian Parliament the supremacy in the Indian constitution which the British Parliament has held in our own.

However, it is necessary if we are to preserve decent relations between our two countries—and the future of democracy and peace may well depend on those relations—that we should recognize what were the conditions in India prior to the declaration of the emergency, and what has happened since in many spheres, and what has happened in neighbouring countries.

Of course, one way was open to Mrs Gandhi which would have spared her the strictures of Mr Levin and everyone else. She could have had herself assassinated—as Attlee was assassinated in Chile by the forces of reaction. Mr Levin, possibly, would then have written an eloquent obituary, and please don't let anyone tell me that such events are inconceivable in modern Indian conditions; the facts speak very differently.

My guess, and mine may be better than Mr Levin's, is that the vast majority of Indian people are glad that Mrs Gandhi chose a different course. Her departure from the Indian scene at this period, whether by an assassin's bullet or by a judicial execution, would have been a tragedy for the Indian people.



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LEEDS	2hr 29min
SHEFFIELD	2hr 30min
BIRMINGHAM	1hr 31min
BRISTOL	1hr 33min
CARDIFF	1hr 53min
SOUTHAMPTON	1hr 10min
LEICESTER	1hr 24min
PLYMOUTH	3hr 42min
NOTTINGHAM	1hr 55min
STOKE-ON-TRENT	1hr 45min

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SPORT

Football

Best affair erupts as Hardaker accuses Fulham of arrogance

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Fulham have been accused by the Football League's secretary, Alan Hardaker, of being arrogant over the George Best affair. Replying to Fulham's refusal to give an undertaking that Best would complete the current season before returning to the United States, Mr Hardaker said that Best was "dumped" back in the League for the winter.

Previous exchanges between the League and Fulham have been comparatively formal and Mr Hardaker's latest letter to the club's secretary, Graham Horro, is openly angry and personal. It concludes by saying that: "Any hold up in the final registration of Best is not particularly caused by the players' attitude or behaviour, but rather by the arrogant attitude adopted by your club."

Mr Hardaker said: "I am surprised that such an experienced secretary as yourself has not been able to interpret the regulations of the Football League correctly. For your guidance, I would refer you to regulations 15 and 15(b). The latter regulation is an embracing clause. It allows the League Management Committee to 'deal with any player who is full and associate members, officials or players in respect of any offences or complaints and with matters not otherwise specifically provided for in the regulations. Rule 15 concerns illegal inducements to a player of another club who is not on the transfer

list. It precludes the use of an agent in the arrangement of registrations and contracts. The letter continues: "When you visited my office with your agent, Mr. [Name], I told you that we were given a categorical assurance that there was no secret agreement for Best's return to America before the completion of the football season, and it was explained why the Management Committee was taking the action in this case as a protection of the interests of all the Football League clubs."

"Here was a player who had completed Manchester United to give him a free transfer, ostensibly on a permanent basis, and then he was to be allowed to return to America before the season was over. This was not a secret agreement for Best's return to America before the completion of the football season, and it was explained why the Management Committee was taking the action in this case as a protection of the interests of all the Football League clubs."

"This was not the first case of this kind and the Management Committee have no alternative but to insist that a player returning from America, unless there has been a bona fide transfer, must sign for at least 12 months. This is a condition of America in such a way as to affect the Football League's programme of play for the winter."

Mr Hardaker's unfortunate interpretation of Best's return to England as a case of being dumped with matters not otherwise specifically provided for in the regulations. Rule 15 concerns illegal inducements to a player of another club who is not on the transfer

list. It precludes the use of an agent in the arrangement of registrations and contracts. The letter continues: "When you visited my office with your agent, Mr. [Name], I told you that we were given a categorical assurance that there was no secret agreement for Best's return to America before the completion of the football season, and it was explained why the Management Committee was taking the action in this case as a protection of the interests of all the Football League clubs."

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Racing

Brown Admiral to take tide at flood

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Now that Fred Rimell's stable has struck form, no one ought to be surprised if there is a spate of winners from Kinnerley in Worcester. Before Christmas, Rimell's tally was a mere 13, which was undeniably a poor record for a man who has five times been the leading National Hunt trainer, last season being the most recent occasion.

Five winners at Wolverhampton during the Christmas holiday, followed by another three at Cheltenham, took the stable's total to more than 20 in the week after Christmas, and unless I am mistaken the revival has begun. One of those winners at Wolverhampton was Brown Admiral, who won the Harry Brown Challenge Cup for the second year in succession. Sporting the colours made familiar to a Frix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, Rhelgold, Brown Admiral will be at Sandown Park today to try to win the Ladies' Handicap Steeplechase.

Two miles and a half, the distance of today's race, could be his ideal. Four of his six victories over fences have been gained over this distance, his most recent by as much as 12 lengths. On the book there should not be much between Brown Admiral and Bit of Mandy at the end. Both



Rimell: Englishman in form.

have been beaten this season by the reliable Master H; Brown Admiral by half a length at Newbury. Bit of Mandy by a head at Exeter. On a line through Master H, Brown Admiral comes out 8 lb in front of Bit of Mandy, with the difference today, now that the White Lodge Handicap is on, an up-and-coming steeplechaser.

If Monfrie is beaten, his trainer, John Gifford, can derive some consolation by winning the Mole Handicap Steeplechase with Mole St Denys, who nearly beat Miss Roon at Windsor last Saturday. Mole St Denys has been previously won easily at Nottingham and he may turn out to be too good for Number Engaged at these weights.

St Cadwaladr, who beat Escapologist emphatically at Chesham



Sloan: American in form.

Arctic Heir provides Thorne with 100th win

The valuable Sun Alliance Steeplechase at Cheltenham on March is the target for Arctic Heir, who gave John Thorne his 100th training success in seven years at Taunton yesterday.

Thorne paid 7,000 guineas for Arctic Heir out of Mick O'Toole's Irish stable just over a year ago.

It is now being rewarded for the time he gave the horse to acclimate. Arctic Heir, who was at Christmas at Newton Abbot, was always travelling smoothly behind the leaders. A mistake at the open ditch did not check him and he went on to beat Blackwater Hill.

Sixer, a 13-year-old, running his ninth-sixth race, won the Norton Fitzwarren Handicap Steeplechase. Brown Jock touched down first on the flat, only to veer violently to his left towards the stands, badly upsetting Jimmy Rowe. The spectators had no alternative but to relegate Brown Jock to third place.

Only three of the 11 starters completed the course in the second division of the Fitzwarren Novices Steeplechase. Durham Town rallied bravely to beat Kuzov by a head with Sparkling Tanager 25 lengths away, and Durham Town's owner and trainer, Ken Ivory, has had four winners from only 10 runners at Taunton. He said: "I was confident that this season because he needs the sort of ground. I think he's the sort of horse that could win a Bernal Hunt Cup. I would like to qualify him at Warwick."

Rodney Bower, sending his first runners to Taunton, provided the first, Regal Bird, and the fifth, Sparkling Tanager. The spectators had no alternative but to relegate Brown Jock to third place.

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Derby confirm Murphy in post as manager

Derby County appointed 33-year-old Colin Murphy yesterday as their new manager, the position he has filled as caretaker since the dismissal of David Mackay six weeks ago. Derby's directors had promised Murphy a fair trial in the post and after a four-hour board meeting yesterday they announced that they had put their confidence with six points from the five league games played since he took charge.

Murphy, who was the reserve-team coach under Mackay, has no previous managerial experience in the league. He was for some time in charge of the club's youth team.

The Derby secretary, Stuart Webb, issued a statement during a break in the board meeting. It read: "Colin Murphy has been appointed team manager of the club and this position is regarded as a full-time appointment with the club."

Mr Webb could not say whether

Murphy had been given a contract or whether Derby expected an early decision on their offer to Shanks.

Don Davies, who was dropped by Derby's Park Rangers last week for the match at Derby, which was postponed, is included in the side for the home FA Cup third round match tomorrow against Shrewsbury Town. He comes back as Thomas is out of action with a broken cheekbone received in training.

Paul Williams, the 16-year-old son of the former Wolverhampton and England goalkeeper, Bert Williams, who was signed by Derby County, Williams, also a goalkeeper, has impressed in several trial matches.

Letter helps Morgan escape ban

William Morgan, Bolton Wanderer's Scottish international wing, escaped suspension when he appeared before the Football Association disciplinary committee in London yesterday. Morgan, who had accumulated 20 disciplinary points, was warned about his future conduct, but no further action was taken.

Blackpool referee, Ken Wainman, had sent off Morgan on October 23 for allegedly slinging a kick at Oldham's David Shaw, who was also dismissed. But an FA councillor saw the evidence and wrote to the committee supporting Morgan's case.

Scanlon, the Notts County player who walked off the club in protest after being dropped, has been suspended for a fortnight. Ron Fenton, the manager, said the ban would start on Monday and added that he would not be including Scanlon against Arsenal in their FA Cup tie tomorrow.

Lord Brae's experience expected to be decisive

By Michael Seely

Haydock Park, where the first racing this week north of the English Channel, is expected to be a big success in prize money this year. With a large catchment area to draw on, the Lancashire track is well attended and their patrons are assured of more first-class sport in 1977. The total added money will amount to £361,700, an increase of over £54,000 on 1976. The extra funds will be provided by the Levy Board, sponsors and the racecourse itself.

The meeting opens on a quiet note this afternoon although the amateur jockeys are well catered for. The White Lodge Handicap Hurdle may fall to Tony Brice, who will be ridden by his trainer, Tommy Tate. Tony Dickenson, son-in-law of Lord Brae, won a handicap comfortably at Southwell in December and is weighted to beat his Newcastle counterpart, the 11 lb 12 lb mount of Peter Greenall. The top weight, L'Alouette, the winner of a similar race at Carlisle in November, is a horse whose future

lies over fences. He may face too stiff a task with 12 st 7 lb on his back today.

The principal threat should come from Goolagong, an easy winner of his last two races at Teesside Park and Catterick. Goolagong is a moderate bunch, but Rookery Nook may be good enough to beat the Worcester non-winner, Holly Park, and Soutra, who was beaten 15 lengths when second to Cromwell.

The best bet at Haydock may be Reilly Royal, whom John O'Neill rides for Gordon Richards.

against the novice Goolagong. However, Goolagong's record is impressive. He can win the Oldham Handicap, an easy race for a moderate bunch, but Rookery Nook may be good enough to beat the Worcester non-winner, Holly Park, and Soutra, who was beaten 15 lengths when second to Cromwell.

The best bet at Haydock may be Reilly Royal, whom John O'Neill rides for Gordon Richards.

Sandown Park programme

12.45 METROPOLITAN HURDLE (Div 1: novices: 5670: 2m)		
1	01-01	Arctic Heir (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
2	01-02	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
3	01-03	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
4	01-04	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
5	01-05	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
6	01-06	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
7	01-07	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
8	01-08	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
9	01-09	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
10	01-10	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
11	01-11	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
12	01-12	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
13	01-13	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
14	01-14	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
15	01-15	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
16	01-16	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
17	01-17	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
18	01-18	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
19	01-19	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
20	01-20	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
21	01-21	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
22	01-22	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
23	01-23	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
24	01-24	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
25	01-25	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
26	01-26	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
27	01-27	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
28	01-28	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
29	01-29	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
30	01-30	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)

Haydock Park programme

1.0 BOLTON HURDLE (5487: 2m)		
1	01-01	Arctic Heir (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
2	01-02	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
3	01-03	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
4	01-04	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
5	01-05	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
6	01-06	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
7	01-07	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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10	01-10	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
11	01-11	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
12	01-12	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
13	01-13	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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15	01-15	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
16	01-16	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
17	01-17	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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19	01-19	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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23	01-23	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
24	01-24	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
25	01-25	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
26	01-26	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
27	01-27	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
28	01-28	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
29	01-29	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
30	01-30	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)

Yesterday's results at Taunton

1.0 (1.3) FLOUGHMAN'S STEEPLECHASE		
1	01-01	Arctic Heir (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
2	01-02	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
3	01-03	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
4	01-04	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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11	01-11	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
12	01-12	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
13	01-13	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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Table tennis

England achieve double team triumph

England swept to a magnificent double over Soviet Union in the team finals of the England open table tennis championships, sponsored by Norwich Union, at Thornaby last night.

Denis Neale and Desmond Douglas scored an overwhelming 3-0 win while Jill Hamersley and Linda Howard dropped only one set in their 3-1 victory over the doubles in winning 3-1. It was the first England team double in the 14 years history of the event. The success of the team was expected, but their victory by Neale and Douglas came as a complete surprise.

Although England's women have not been successful in the team championship for 12 years Howard were strong favourites against the incoming Russians.

The Soviet Union, however, had Anzelya Sirokova in their men's line-up and this world-ranked player was expected to give them the edge. He is the top seed in the individual championship beginning tomorrow. But Neale, who had beaten him in the final, gave his confidence a tremendous boost by beating the Russian in the opening match.

Neale had to come back from 13-18 down in the second to win 21-19, 22-20.

After this triumph Douglas easily disposed of Magrat, also from the English pair, also took the doubles.

Douglas, the English champion, from Birmingham, had played the major role in the earlier group matches in which he did not lose one singles match.

Jill Hamersley, England's top women's champion, was the major force in the women's success, winning seven singles all without the loss of a game.

Yesterday's results in team championship

Group A: Soviet Union beat England 3-0		
1	01-01	Arctic Heir (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
2	01-02	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
3	01-03	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
4	01-04	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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Wimbledon prepare to write another fairy tale

Plough Lane and the Stars

By Geoffrey Green

This is the time of the season, at the birth of a new year, when all the sentiments are given a run for their money. The occasion is tomorrow's third round of the FA Cup. Its arrival offers the first distant whiff of approaching spring, though few would suspect it in all the surrounding furies of snow, sleet and frost.

But more than that, at the moment when dreamers dream of Jonah swallowing the whale in this most democratic of competitions, where the Leviathans cannot disport themselves in their own oceans. Now they must be prepared to face the smaller fry in other ponds. Provocatively, a good big one should always meet a good little one, but the fact that something he does not add a zest to life. Indeed, the essence of the combat demands that there should be a foot or two in between the contestants.

Such a case in point is to be found in the Southern League, the champions of the Southern League for the past two years, at Plough Lane. Should Wimbledon win, the story of it should be left to the pen of Sean O'Casey. It could be an heroic echo of his *Plough Lane* and the Stars.

Wimbledon, however, have a job to do and they are keeping their feet on the ground - rather on the asphalt of a car park adjoining their main stand where, for four bitter nights this week, their hand of part-time players has been training under lights at the end of a day's work outside football. The asphalt has been the recent weather that it now resembles the ravaged, well-trodden path of the late and lovely W. C. Fields.

Sandown Park selections

12.45 CADWALADR is specially recommended. 1.15 Alex. 2.20 Linsky. 2.55 Morey St Denys. 3.30 Midsummer Lad.		
1	01-01	Arctic Heir (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
2	01-02	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
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10	01-10	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
11	01-11	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
12	01-12	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
13	01-13	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
14	01-14	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
15	01-15	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
16	01-16	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
17	01-17	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
18	01-18	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
19	01-19	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
20	01-20	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
21	01-21	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
22	01-22	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
23	01-23	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
24	01-24	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
25	01-25	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
26	01-26	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
27	01-27	Sparkling Tanager (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
28	01-28	Regal Bird (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
29	01-29	Reilly Royal (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)
30	01-30	Blackwater Hill (D. J. Wainman, 5-11-0)



Homes in towns or villages

As became increasingly evident in the latter part of last year, rising transport costs and similar considerations are intensifying interest in town or village houses where some degree of urban amenity is more readily available than in remote locations. They are popular with newcomers to an area and also to local people living a few miles out who still find their position inconvenient. In a new year in which the prospects for the general property market are on the gloomy side this type of property may prove to be one of the bright spots.

No location is perfect and one disadvantage often found with town or village houses is lack of an adequate garden and no garage. What is unusual about Stour House, at Blandford Forum, Dorset, only a few yards from the centre of the town, is that it has a really good-sized garden and a double garage. The house dates from the early part of the eighteenth century and has the well-proportioned rooms of its period. There are three reception rooms and seven bedrooms; the gardens and grounds total about 2½ acres with a frontage to the Stour and include a private island of about an acre reached by a footbridge. There is fishing both from the shore and from the island. Besides the large garage there is also a garden room, greenhouse and a former stable block. The property is for sale at a price of about £45,000 through Savills.

The same agents are dealing with a similar property with a smaller but well-proportioned garden and a double garage. Also with Georgian origins, Dunloe House, close to Fordington House, is within walking distance of the centre of the town. There are three reception rooms, including a sitting room on the first floor, and five bedrooms. There is also a garage block and the price is £39,500.

Slightly smaller is 56 East St. Helen's Street, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, an eighteenth-century terrace house only some 25 yards from the Thames. Accommodation includes a dining hall, living room, two bedrooms on the first floor and two more with dormer windows on the second. There is a small paved garden and the possibility of renting a garage nearby. The price is £25,000, through Buckell and Ballard, of Oxford. West House, at South Hill, Droxford, Hampshire, is a



Stour House, Blandford Forum, Dorset: asking price around £45,000 which includes a private island.

good eighteenth-century village house with an unusual amount of accommodation. Construction is of red bricks with a parapet and sash windows. Under a roof of old tiles, the main part of the house, on two floors, provides a dining hall, drawing room, study and four bedrooms. In addition there is a self-contained annex, also on two floors, which has two sitting rooms and two bedrooms. There are two adjoining garages, and the garden is mainly walled. In all there is about three quarters of an acre. The price is £44,500 and the agents are Pearsons, of Andover.

An interesting property for sale in Cornwall is the Mill House, in the village of New Mill, about three miles from Penzance. The property, which dates from the seventeenth century, has a main house and a detached outbuilding. It is a well-proportioned house with a beamed and paneled ceiling, and five bedrooms. Outside, the mill house has an L-shaped garden of 2½ acres, and includes the restored water wheel, 15ft in diameter, operated by the mill. The price is £30,000. About an acre and a half of ground goes with the property and the price is £30,000. A detached outbuilding, a breakfast room and kitchen and five bedrooms. Numerous outbuildings in the three acres of grounds include a large nursery school room. The

property backs on to farmland and Forestry Commission land and is for sale at £22,000 through Mann and Co. of Cornwall. An imposing building is The Old Rectory, at Worthenbury, in open agricultural country between Wrexham and Malpas, on the borders of Cheshire and Shropshire. With an origin in Cromwellian times, it is built of white rendered brick under a slate roof and the accommodation includes two reception rooms, a study and five bedrooms. An attic and a cellar are good points. There are grounds of about three acres with numerous outbuildings, which include an old brew-house, dovecote and stabling. The property requires further modernization but is for sale at £29,500. The agents are Jackson-Stops and Start, of Chester.

Extensive accommodation is also provided by The Manor House, at Church Stowe, Northamptonshire, an interesting mixed-period property. The original part dates from the sixteenth century but was altered in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Further modernization is required but there are two main reception rooms and three bedrooms, as well as two attic rooms. Grounds of about 2½ acres include a L-shaped range of outbuildings. Offers over £40,000 are being asked through David Henson, of Northampton. Further land is available if required.

Good, luxurious bungalows often fetch high prices and a house close to the village of £75,000 has been realized in the sale of one called The Walnut Garden, at Hurley, near Maidenhead. The sale was through Giddy and Giddy. Built about 20 years ago but later improved, the building has a large reception room, four bedrooms, including a main suite, and a sun room. The acre of garden has a heated swimming pool, a sauna and a solarium.

Gerald Ely

Residential property

Properties under £25,000

Scandinavian Homes countrywide

Tamworth, Staffs £8,700	Bentley, Essex £16,000	Upton, Cambs £16,550
Oundle, Northants £17,900	Wimborne, Dorset £18,500	Stockbridge, Hants £24,250

For full details ring: Carol Hattersley on Winchester, (0962) 68655
Scandinavian Homes Ltd, Pitt Lodge, Pitt, Winchester, Hampshire

DANIEL SMITH & BOND

Chartered Surveyors

157 Kennington Lane SE11

01-735 2292

Kennington Park Rd, SE11

1000 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 dining rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 pantries, 2 cellars, 2 garages, 2 outbuildings, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.

Bromley Rd, Beckenham

Spacious flat in small, exclusive development, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 dining rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 pantries, 2 cellars, 2 garages, 2 outbuildings, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.

Kennington, SE11

Spacious 1st floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 dining rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 pantries, 2 cellars, 2 garages, 2 outbuildings, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.

ALSO

Adjacent plot with detailed planning for 3 bed roomed house with 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.

ALSO

Adjacent plot with detailed planning for 3 bed roomed house with 2 garages, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.

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ALSO

LUXURY MARINE APARTMENT

Luxury Freehold Marine Apartment situated in a superbly equipped building, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, 2 living rooms, 2 dining rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 pantries, 2 cellars, 2 garages, 2 outbuildings, 2 swimming pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 lawns, 2 gardens, 2 parks, 2 forests, 2 mountains, 2 rivers, 2 lakes, 2 seas, 2 oceans, 2 planets, 2 universes, 2 everything.

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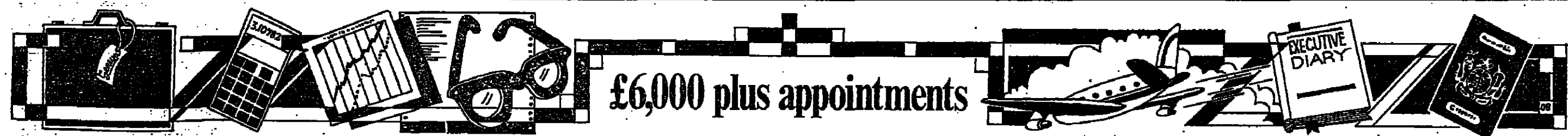
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SE11, 1000 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms,



MANAGING DIRECTOR

Due to impending retirement FREIGHT EXPRESS-SEACON LIMITED are seeking applications to fill the above position.

This is the parent company of a young group with well established European connections, actively expanding in short sea ship operation, chartering, shipping and forwarding as well as stevedoring, wharfage and haulage. Current expansion commitments are close to £4 million.

Our new MD will be a dynamic personality with commercial flair in the age range of approx 30-45 and will have already established a successful career in the shipping, transportation or allied fields and is likely to be able to converse in German and/or French. Salary, profit sharing and fringe benefits will be generous and commensurate with the position.

Curriculum vitae to:

THE CHAIRMAN,
FREIGHT EXPRESS-SEACON LIMITED,
THE LONDON STEEL TERMINAL,
EXPRESS WHARF, 38 WEST FERRY ROAD,
MILLWALL, LONDON E14 8LW.

COUNTY PLANNING OFFICER

£13,521-£14,403

To succeed the present holder of the post Mr E. G. Sibert upon his retirement in June 1977.

The person appointed will head a department of some 120 and will be the County Council's principal professional officer in regard to town and country planning. Primary responsibilities will be to advise on the formulation, effective implementation and development of the Council's activities in this field.

He or she will also be a member of the Chief Officers Board and will be expected to contribute to the development of a corporate approach to the Council's administration.

The ideal candidate will:

- be a Chartered Town Planner;
- have had wide experience at a senior level in a large local authority;
- have proven management ability, and an appreciation of relevant management techniques.

Relocation assistance available where appropriate and temporary accommodation in approved cases.

Application form and further details from Clerk and Chief Executive, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2DN.

Closing date: 28th January, 1977.



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Fertilizer Marketing Manager—Saudi Arabia

SAFCO has retained the British Sulphur Corporation Ltd., to undertake preliminary selection of applicants for the above post. Applications are invited from marketing executives with proven experience and success in the development of markets for fertilizers, agrochemicals or allied products. The appointee will be responsible for the development of offshore and domestic markets for urea produced by SAFCO at Dammam. The appointment will be based on Dammam, but the work will entail much overseas and some domestic travelling. Fluent English is required—other languages useful.

Appointment initially on 2-year contract at salary of about £5,200,000 p.a. plus allowances for children's education. Flat accommodation provided rent free.

Short-listed candidates may be flown to Saudi Arabia for final selection process—probably in February or March.

Applications with full particulars should be sent to arrive by 24th January, 1977, addressed to:

DOUGLASS G. JONES
BRITISH SULPHUR CORPORATION LTD.
PARNELL HOUSE, 25 WILTON ROAD, LONDON SW1V 1NH
AND MARKED PERSONAL

CPC/Europe

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Please write or telephone for application form quoting Post Ref: T28 to the Chief Executive (Personnel), South Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Bamsley, South Yorkshire, Telephone Bamsley 86141, Ext. 266.

Closing date for applications will be 19th January, 1977.

South Yorkshire County Council

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LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF MUNICIPALITIES

LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC

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The Cultural Counsellor
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Embassy of the Libyan Arab Republic
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ULSTER MUSEUM

The Trustees of the Ulster Museum invite applications for the post of

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The Museum comprises departments of Art, Antiquities, Zoology and Botany, Geology and Technology and Local History. In addition there is a Design and Production Department and an Education Service. The regional Armagh County Museum is also included within the responsibility of the Trustees. A new extension has recently been completed and new displays have been installed to a very high standard.

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Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from:

The Administrative Officer
Ulster Museum
Botanic Gardens
Belfast BT9 5AB

Closing date for application, 31st January, 1977

ULSTER MUSEUM Botanic Gardens Belfast

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PUBLIC NOTICES

APPLICATION FOR THE RECORDING OF AIRCRAFT IN THE SWISS AIRCRAFT RECORD

Mr. J. Dur, 5644 Auv. Switzerland has applied for the aircraft "Piper PA23-250" serial number 1977, A1, nationality and registration marks HB-LBP, former nationality and registration marks GB-CHR to be recorded in the Swiss Aircraft Record.

According to Article 11, paragraph 1 of the Order for the implementation of the Federal Law on the Swiss Aircraft Record, notifications in duplicate must reach the Swiss Federal Air Office, in Bern, Switzerland, within 30 days.

(a) If there are any objections to the recording of this aircraft in the Record, in which case reasons must be stated; (b) If there are any claims concerning the aircraft, in which case any available documentary proof must be produced; otherwise it will be assumed that the claims have been renounced or are not to be noted in the Record.

Berne, December 29th, 1976.

SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE SECTION OF THE SWISS AIRCRAFT RECORD

COMPANY NOTICES

SAVE A PROSPER FINANCIAL SECURITIES FUND

COUPON No. 11 falls due for payment on 15th January, 1977. At 10.00 a.m. on the day of payment, the coupon will be presented to the Royal Bank of Scotland Limited, Lombard Street, London, EC3M 7JF, from whom the coupon may be obtained.

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MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Noted 3 January, 1977. £7.5m due 5 March, at 15.00. Amalgamated £57.5m. Outstanding bills £1.5m.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial appointments also on page 21

NON-SECRETARIAL

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HIGH CLASS DOMESTIC STAFF always required. Call. Producers of the film "The Go-Between". 55 Alexandra Rd., Windsor.

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Mayfair antique shop. Knowledge of antique furniture. Phone 01-437 3893.

Lord Caradon on Palestine's case for a state on the West Bank of Jordan

Why the Palestinians see the Holy City as a gateway to peace

Forty years on, the mongrel still barking at Labour's left

Tribune is 40 today. Luckily the very independent weekly of the Labour left, which has outlived almost all other magazines that have been launched in this country committed to propagating democratic socialism, shows no signs of growing up and becoming middle-aged. It is still youthfully ebullient, incorrigibly opinionated and quarrelsome, and engagingly convinced of its correctness, where other less visionary magazines have had their ardent idealism damped by journalistic arteriosclerosis, or falling circulations, or the harsh compromises of practical politics. The character of *Tribune* is that of an untidy mongrel crossed between a gadfly, a watchdog, and a beller, trying to buzz, bark, and bark the Labour Party from the left-hand lane to socialism.

Tribune was born in January, 1937, at a time of economic crisis and unemployment, having been conceived in the previous year after the disastrous Labour Party Conference of 1936. Stafford Cripps, Aneurin Bevan, Harold Laski, Ellen Wilkinson, and George Strauss, aided and abetted by Collingwood and John Strachey, planned a new weekly that would be a mouthpiece and megaphone of the militant Labour left. Its first statement of policy declared that it stood for changing the world system that was no longer compatible with either democracy or peace: "We must change it, for if we wait, the initiative will be in the hands of those to whom neither democracy nor peace is an ideal charged with meaning. The world system that is destroying hope in the world is capitalism."

The fiercest political controversies of the past 40 years. In 1942 *Tribune* published the first of the attacks made on Churchill during the war, characterizing him as "the head of the least successful War Administration in Britain for 270 years".

In the 1950s *Tribune* and the *Left Review* marched to save what they saw as the socialist soul of the Labour Party. During the cold war it was strongly anti-Stalinist and even pro-American in its honourable life-long devotion to democracy and hatred of dictatorship. Vehemently pro-CND and in favour of independence for all the old colonies of the old empires, it was vehemently against the Vietnam War and "this monumental swindle called the Common Market". *Tribune* sees the world in simple black and white, and is always happier in opposition, when there is a Tory Government in power. Its traditional spirit of attack and dissent seems uncomfortably close to heresy and disloyalty to some Labour politicians in power.

Heads proudly in the clouds

Tribune has a long populist tradition of proclaiming power to the people in a paper that is largely read by the intelligent. Aneurin Bevan put it in his words: "We shall show how the inefficiency of British industry, the failure of our military intelligence, the flatfootedness of the Army command, the debility of our propaganda to enemy countries, and the shortcomings of our grand strategy are due, in one form or another, to the fact that Britain is still controlled by those who think, either consciously or unconsciously, that ordinary men and women are there to be governed and not to govern." Dick Clements, who has edited *Tribune* for the past 16 years, says: "We have our heads proudly in the clouds when we preach socialist idealism, but we have our feet very firmly on the ground when we argue about how we will achieve the transition from our present economic society to the sort of democratic socialism we want to see."

Tribune is celebrating its fortieth birthday with an anthology and history called *Tribune 40*, and with a special supplement about its history published with today's issue. One of a few *Tribune* old boys have ever won their First XI caps: Bevan, Crossman, and the present Lord President of the Council. Its causes never wholly triumph. But the voice of the passionate and ever-youthful *Tribune* of the people continues to enliven, enrich, and influence the national debate.

Philip Howard

Democratically marching on

Forty years on, undaunted by the unconscionable longevity of capitalism and some disappointments of socialism, *Tribune* marches on, bloody-minded, but unbowed and essentially democratic. The magazine, which prefers to call itself a paper, still defines its role as to attack the ills that afflict our society; to attack the forces that create and maintain those ills; to dissent from orthodox, discredited measures that seek to alleviate rather than cure; to fight for what it believes to be the true answers to humanity's problems, answers that lie in the bedrock of democracy and socialism. Its vocabulary has always been belligerent.

The editors and columnists of *Tribune* form a noble army of martyrs and warriors of the left, from Nye Bevan and Jennie Lee to Raymond Postgate, Michael Foot, and George Orwell, who was literary editor and one of many distinguished literary contributors. Its battle honours constitute a roll-call of

"Please, nothing too ostentatious," she protested.

"Even diamonds can be discreet," I smiled, handing her the small, leather-bound box.

She opened it.

Inside, the watch gleamed softly. A tiny masterpiece of the art of Audemars Piguet.

A simple shape in pure white gold, adorned only with diamonds.

Diamonds framed the face. Were actually set into the minuscule hands.

As she reached out to pick up the watch, they reflected and refracted laser-like points of light.

She slipped it onto her wrist and fastened the delicately woven strap.

"I'll never be late again," she said, her eyes sparkling like the diamonds themselves.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 72 Saffron Hill, London EC3N 8RS.

They long for a homeland in which they take their own decisions and shape their own destiny and regain their self respect

Of all the crowded impressions from weeks of discussions in the Middle East one main conclusion is clearest of all. The Palestinians want a state of their own on the West Bank of Jordan. They long for a homeland in which they take their own decisions and shape their own destiny and regain their self respect by practical, constructive endeavour.

On this there is surprising unanimity—I say surprising because in the past there have been so many disputes and divisions in the Arab world. But now—and this is in striking contrast to a year ago when I last toured in the Middle East—I found among the Palestinians no dissenting voice.

The new state should be established on the territories to be recovered from the Israeli occupation on the West Bank and Gaza and East Jerusalem. This, as I say, is now the firm and clear claim of all the Palestinians I met.

It was reiterated in every West Bank town and village I visited. And the aim is accepted by the Palestine Liberation Organization. Yasser Arafat in a recent interview confirmed the earlier PLO policy: "We are prepared to establish an independent regime in any territory we liberate or from which Israel withdraws."

And when I saw Khaled Fahum, President of the PLO Council, in Damascus he fully endorsed the Palestinian demand.

So out of the delays and divisions of the past nine years there has emerged among the Palestinians a clear and positive and urgent purpose.

Two factors in this new situation should be specially emphasized.

First, Arab Jerusalem must be included in the new state of Palestine. Saudi Arabia has always given top importance to the liberation of Jerusalem. I saw President Sadat he was particularly emphatic that no

Arab could accept that Arab Jerusalem should be under Arab administration. Without Arab sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem there can never be peace.

So the concept gains ground that there should be two cities, an Arab Jerusalem and an Israeli Jerusalem—I trust with no barriers between them—with a new relationship of equality and mutual respect and political assistance. The noble conception is that the Holy City should become not a barrier but a gateway to peace.

There is a second factor of the greatest importance arising from the aim of an independent Palestine state.

It is that the Palestinians of the West Bank increasingly realize that the new Palestine state can emerge and thrive only if those who form and lead it work in the closest and friendliest cooperation with their neighbours and specially with Jordan.

In meeting after meeting in the towns of the West Bank the Palestinians emphasized that the small state of Palestine must depend on the economic and political assistance of the Arab world, including particularly their Arab brothers on the other side of the river. Palestine, they begin to believe, can become not a cause of disruption but a proud centre of Arab unity and cooperation.

So now that the Palestinians agree on what they want, what support can they expect from the Arab governments? President Sadat put an independent Palestine state as one of the main objects to be pursued at the Geneva Conference. Both in Damascus and Beirut I was told in the foreign ministries in the clearest terms that they are equally in support.

King Hussein long ago made his position plain when he said: "Israel has stated that it will not tolerate an independent state in Palestine or the West Bank. I am sure that we will make such a decision. Neither have I. No one has a right to

take that decision save the Palestinians themselves."

When I saw the King in Amman he fully confirmed the Palestinian attitude he had taken. The Palestinians know very well they need Jordan's continuing generous assistance. They are assured that they will get it.

Moreover, international backing for the object of a Palestine state is overwhelming. Nine members of the European Community have declared that an end of Israel's territorial occupation following the 1967 war is an essential condition for a settlement, and recently nearly a hundred nations in the United Nations General Assembly have supported the call for an independent Palestine state.

What of the attitude of the Israelis? As I was told by a senior official in the Israeli Foreign Ministry but I certainly did not expect any new statement of policy. I have always understood, and respected, the Israeli attitude that they will give nothing away until they see in negotiation what they are to get in terms of recognition and security.

But the importance of the new Palestinian purpose is, I am sure, not lost on the Israeli Government. They have become determined supporters of the terms of Security Council

Resolution 242, and the Palestinian initiative is clearly in conformity with the two basic principles of that resolution, "the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war" and the right of every state in the area "to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats and acts of force".

Moreover I met again some of the brave and outspoken Israelis who have been openly advocating the necessity of understanding and agreement with the Palestinians, and they tell me that their ideas make good progress in Israeli public opinion. It was good too to talk again with Teddy Kolek, the indefatigable Mayor of Jerusalem, who takes special pride in working for better relations with the Arabs.

It is no longer looked upon as a wildly idealistic conception that the security of Israel and the peace of the whole Middle East must depend not on arms or on territory or on the domination of one side over the other but on agreement, and on peaceful coexistence, with Palestinians too having a right to self-determination and security in their own homeland.

I like to quote what Abba Eban, the former Secretary of Israel, said at the Geneva Conference in 1973: "The

ultimate guarantee in a peace agreement lies in the creation of common regional interests in such degree of intensity, in such multiplicity of inter-action, in such entanglement of reciprocal advantage, in such accessibility of human contact, as to put the possibility of future war beyond national contingency."

The immediate obstacle is the question of how the Palestinians should be represented at the Geneva Conference. There are half a dozen ways of getting over this procedural difficulty, several of them under discussion now, but it is increasingly recognized that to have a Middle East conference and to exclude the Palestinians would be the height of arrogant absurdity. Moreover, Khaled Fahum of the PLO in Damascus told me that the PLO is now directing its efforts to making the Palestine National Council as widely representative of all Palestinians as possible.

So if the new purpose is supported by the Palestinians and the Arab governments directly concerned and most of the nations of the world, and if Israel could from this enterprise obtain the security and peace which it needs at least as badly as the Arabs, what hope is there that the Geneva Conference will soon convene and get down to the hard detailed work—on boundaries and guarantees and demilitarized zones and return of refugees and Jerusalem, among other difficult but negotiable questions to be settled?

In spite of all the favourable factors, with the Lebanese civil war ended, Arab governments in accord, a new President in the United States, and such wide support for convening the Geneva Conference, I am bound to say that I feel no easy optimism.

The policies of divide and delay which have dominated the past nine years are still much to be feared. I am sure that the Geneva Conference will be a step towards positive action. And while the drift continues the

situation on the ground goes rapidly much worse. A seizure of land and the creation of encirclement of Jerusalem proceed apace. Scarcely a month passes without announcement about compulsory land acquisition and Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. They stand right across the path of new hopes for the future; not to pursue complaints at the past, but it was impossible to avoid the harsh facts and bitter reactions of the occupation. When I was in Nablus, under military curfew, I was in Hebron the town was in protest strike. Demonstrations by schoolchildren followed by arrests and fines (as much as ten thousand Israeli pounds in some cases on the parents).

In the streets as well as the meeting places I was with complainants about imprisonment, exiling, house arrests, refusal to allow freedom of political organization.

The occupation of Arab land by force has gone on much longer. Now there is a prospect and a real hope that this occupation could be ended in a few years.

If this opportunity is lost, believe that all concerned face maybe a generation of violence and bloodshed, devastation and human suffering too vast to imagine.

We must pray that 1977 will be the year of the peace, peace internationally achieved and guaranteed, with Euphrates playing its full part in a serene and urgent international endeavour, and, as I am greatly hoping, a United Kingdom again taking the lead.

Lord Caradon, who returned from an extensive tour in the Middle East, served Palestine and Trans-Jordan in days of the British Mandate, was much concerned with the Middle East when he was British Minister at the United Nations from 1964 to 1970.

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Bernard Levin

'Tis a soul-destroying business, to be sure

A Mrs Nadia Shorten, described as a wealthy American widow (she will soon be less wealthy, for reasons which will become apparent in the course of these remarks), has made it clear that she is interested in the transmigration of souls, partly at least because her own soul has undergone a number of such passages from one body to another, including those of a priest of ancient Egypt, a Red Indian squaw and a tiger. (And also, presumably, a wealthy American widow.) Her theory about souls in transit is that they do not simply flit from an expiring host to a nascent one; they tend to lie about in a dismantled state until, under the appropriate stimulus, they re-assemble themselves (I have an image, probably absurd, of the reconstituted soul shaking itself like a dog which has just emerged from a pond) and enter the new fleshy home.

Mrs. Shorten, feeling that souls could well do with some encouragement towards putting themselves together, has decided to set up an institution in which the souls in passage may rest and recuperate after leaving the body which has until then housed them, rather as battle-weary soldiers, withdrawn from the line for a refit, are sent to a camp far in the rear, where they may recover their energy and enthusiasm before returning to the fray. To this end, she is in the market for a suitable house in the West of Ireland, for the purchase and equipping of which she has set aside the sum of \$50,000.

Something tells me that suitable houses may prove more numerous, in those parts, than she has supposed even in her most sanguine moments.

Shakespeare attributed to Pythagoras (not altogether unjustly, as a matter of fact) the belief that the soul of one's grandam might happily inhabit a bird, and I suppose that with such authority behind her Mrs Shorten is entitled to argue that her own soul has made a number of previous appearances; from that, it is only reasonable for her to proceed to the assumption that other souls are similarly in a continuous state of passage from corporeal existence to corporeal existence. Certainly, if she is familiar with the well-known truth of physics that matter is ultimately indestructible, however many metamorphoses it may undergo, she could resort to that fact as a matter of fact, and not just likely to be true of souls. And if it is, or even if she firmly believes it to be (as she clearly does), it is not altogether illogical for her to believe that souls may be in need of temporary sojourn before they can re-assemble themselves. What more reasonable, in these circumstances, than that one who is herself possessed of a soul that has repeatedly been in precisely that situation should be eager to provide wandering souls with board and lodging?

What indeed. But I am not here to try to tell Mrs Shorten's beliefs. I am, on the contrary, come along to you to say that, although I do not share them, I defend her right to hold them without being taken to

the cleaners by every chancer in the West of Ireland—a part of the world where chambers of every description abound in prodigious quantities, together with sundry sweet-talkers, con-men, pocket-lighteners, coney-catchers, look-alikes, gull-guffers, jay-stuffers, sucker-pickers and fully 90 other varieties of those whose business is the parting, by whatever means presents itself to their imagination, of fools from their money.

I have no doubt that from one end of Galway to the other, including the area where I once went fishing for salmon and caught an eel instead, companies are at this moment being registered by the score, with the aim and purpose of providing houses for errant souls, and that those in charge of the fortunes of the companies in question are sending to Mrs Shorten, by bulk mailing, lists of hundreds of suitable establishments, together with tenders for all the goods and equipment required to furnish them. No matter that the houses, almost without exception, will exist only in the imagination of those trying to sell them to Mrs Shorten. It is she, after all, who is in the business of accommodating souls in need of a short-term doss-house, her correspondents being single-mindedly engaged on another activity altogether, to wit, getting their bread into the gravy. In these hard times, ladies with 50 grand to throw around do not exactly grow on bushes, and I dare say that when the news penetrates

to other parts of Ireland, they will be running excursion trains from Kilkenny full of the Little People—these being notoriously well equipped with bread suitable for mopping up gravy—and charabancs from Dublin full of those old biddies who have hitherto eked out a precarious existence by falling over in front of parked cars just as the drivers start the engines and claiming to have been knocked down. Indeed, there is a verse of Dominic Behan that will fit the situation without the slightest emendation:

Some of them came from Dublin,
Some of them came from Clare;
Some of them came from Antrim,
From Wicklow and Kildare;
Some they came from London,
Glasgow and New York.
But the best of all our soldiers
Were the boys of the County Cork.

Not only that; of those hastening from afar to the feast, there will be some, honey-tongued, beyond the ordinary, who will be assuring Mrs Shorten that they are in a position to offer her not only adequate lodging for stray souls but job-lots of the souls themselves, all carefully selected, closely examined for the essential signs of virtue and ready for re-assembling the moment the money is handed over. Indeed, it is not difficult to envisage a kind of soul-auction, with the rival claims of the vendors being expressed with increasing enthusiasm and vehemence until the Gardaí have to be called to restore order, whereas the most honey-tongued of all will presumably

take the Inspector aside and of to cut him in on the low interest for an official assurance from him to Mrs S that only the souls offered by his patron are genuine, and that all alternative sources of supply are safely ignored.

The chief characteristic of a soul after all, is that it is invisible, intangible, to be seen only by eye of faith and heard only by ear of conviction. The philanthropist in this case is clearly pre-disposed, say the least, to the belief that it is about to become the landlady of a host of souls, and in such predispositions, we know, are powerful aids to the imagination. It is true that in this instance the imagination being aided will not be only, even mainly, hers; but the res needs very little imagination envisage.

It's nothing to do with me, real what Mrs Shorten needs is a million, or who induces her to part with it. I am only concerned to ensure that she should have as much protection as her generous nature and deeply-held convictions would lead her to expect. I should be happy to read these lines, let her hear them constituting only the friendliest of most disinterested of warnings. Though she might also care to note that, by an extraordinary series of coincidences, I happen to be the legal owner of Brookllyn Bridge, and will be happy to sell it to her for a reasonable price—say \$50,000. Upon my soul I would.

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The Times Diary

Pushing the boat out for 1977

If you are attracted by the thought of escaping winter gloom, economic ills and inflation on a world cruise aboard a luxury liner, I am sorry to say you have missed the boat. The P & O flagship *Canberra* sailed from Southampton on Wednesday night, for the only world cruise leaving a British port this year. Robin Young was there to see her off:

Photographers were clamouring for passengers to celebrate their departure with popping corks and brimming champagne glasses. The passengers, many of them veterans of several such trips and many cruises, were more interested in showing the stewards how to find the right cabins. "I swear this one's never been on the boat before," grunted a Lancashire woman showing a bristly little brown man struggling with her three large cases. "I know the layout of the ship, far better than he does."

There was, anyway, not a lot of champagne to spare for jollifications before the ship left port. Only 3,000 bottles had been taken on board to last the voyage, rather less than a "tip" for a day. For the 200 passengers who would be making the 86-day trip round the world, other standard fare of high living splendours was in even more scant supply. A spokesman for P & O described the quantity of caviar onboard as insignificant. "These are not the sort of people who can stomach a lot of wine and rich foods," he explained.

The most eagerly awaited passengers were Mr and Mrs Evans from Jersey who were paying £7,171 for cabin C69. This was to be the Evans' eighth world cruise, and a bevy of reporters waited outside their cabin door.

When Evans arrived, though, he had little time to talk to

reporters, and what he did have to say bore a hint of bad news for P & O. "I booked the top cabin for this trip before leaving for the last trip," he said, "but so far I have not booked again. Perhaps I will, but there is just a nagging doubt in my mind that we may not really be getting value for money."

"It is costing us about £15,000, but there are people down below who are getting the same main room facilities and the same food for just over £1,000, and they tend to grab all the best seats at the cabarets, you know."

In the bottom of the ship, in the cheapest four berth cabins costing £1,187 per person, 12 passengers and grandmotherly reunions were going on. Gwen Williams, from Cheshire, and Iris Davies, from Cardiff, first met on the *Canberra* in 1961, and had booked to share. Their neighbour, Ena Stevenson, a retired headmistress, had been on the 1975 cruise, too.

Of course there are lots of familiar faces. "You get to know everybody down here where we have to rub along pretty close to each other. It's all we can afford. Cruising is very addictive, so we come back again and again."

Len Stockey, the advertising and promotions manager for P & O Cruises, estimated that some 10 per cent of the passengers would have been on world cruises before.

Cruising is almost exclusively a pensioners' pleasure. All the

passengers I met were elderly, and five were confined to wheelchairs, but I was told that there were four children under 12 on the passenger list. They have a hostess and a palatial playroom all to themselves, as well as the prospect of a "Coke-cup" party with the captain, which will obviously be the most exclusive social event of the voyage.

Nico Gardener, a former bridge champion and tutor of the game for this cruise as he has been for 81 cruises before, told me: "The big sports on board are art, bridge and ballroom dancing. There are swimming pools, of course, a little backgammon and chess, but few people have energy for things like deck tennis."

The passengers will be making shore excursions from their 21 ports of call. Almost a third are taking a trip into Communist China from Hong Kong (£2,000), and smaller groups will be flying to Japan, or travelling overland via Bangkok to Singapore at greater expense. Some of the crew, though, told me they would not go ashore at all. "We've seen it all before," said a barman, "and with the pound like it is at the moment you can't go anywhere on my £33 a week."

More boats

Those who have missed P & O's boat can always get one of their own, and many with just that in mind went to the first day of the Boat Show at Earls Court yesterday. For the price

of the top suite on the *Canberra* you could buy quite a decent little vessel, though not perhaps one that would go round the world.

Boat builders are coy about displaying prices, but seem to range from £30,000 for the most elaborate yachts, to little more than £1,000 for smaller vessels with cosy names like "Dunfintin". Serious buyers were busy measuring the seats to see whether their families would fit, and asking impenetrable technical questions. They were younger than the world cruisers, but just as rich.

The centrepiece of the show is what purports to be a mock-up, at least a symbolic one, of Brighton Marina, that controversial project which, after years of local squabbling, expects to receive its first boats this year. Around a small pond in the centre hall are a group of Regency-style stands which are not at all like what is actually going to be built alongside the marina, but which are supposed to give the impression of Agency Brighton. If the impression is accurate, then the marina consists largely of banks, marine finance houses and places that sell Guinness.

The marina people gave a champagne party by the pond, with financial reporters sniffing around and asking their own brand of probing questions. On a stage projecting into the water, a slickly produced fashion show got under way, displaying rainwear, sports clothes, bathing suits and drum majorette costumes in shiny red, blue and silver.

The fashion show was followed by a display by the Royal Marines which I had already seen during the summer at Brockwell Park Lido, and then there was some comedy diving which made many people wet. I left, musing that

Actually I wanted an audition as a news-reader



Brighton comes to Earls Court is a slogan only marginally less attractive than Brighton.

Shining

Those of us who cannot afford to take to the water, have to make do with the buses. This year, as a special treat to celebrate to ride in style in silver buses, and one which was launched outside County Hall in London yesterday.

The irony is that though the silver jubilee bus was the idea of London Transport, the vehicle in question was not one

of theirs. London's silver buses will not be launched until Easter. Yesterday's changes to the National Bus Company and will ply in and around East Grinstead, in distant Sussex.

J. H. Nunneley, managing director of British Transport Advertising, who handle advertising for the national, was telling me that he had stolen over London Transport. But Lord Ponsonby, chairman of the Greater London Council, took it in good part, saying he was "proud and happy" to perform the official launching ceremony. Although it was advertised as a champagne launching, the bottle Ponsonby smashed over the bus's hub cap was a cheap sparkling wine. This economy backfired cruelly when one of the bottles exploded in the face of a representative of the electrical company sponsoring the bus, injuring him quite badly.

Two young women were in attendance, dressed in clothe said to date from 1952, but which were hardly distinguishable from clothes of today. I do not remember women in 1952 leaving so many from buttons unfastened. A plan for them to slip into silver bikini en route was abandoned because of the weather.

Lambeth Council take the pessimistic view. One of their press announcements states: "Whilst the recent Viking space probe to Mars did not find any bug-eyed monsters it was able to establish that some form of life was possible on the Red Planet. But is there intelligent life anywhere else in our universe? Go to West Norwood before 31 January and you may get an answer. I went to West Norwood once, and I do not hold out much hope."

PHS

هكذا من الأصل

Royal Navy

a Special Report on Britain's senior Service examining striking power, missiles, air capability and morale



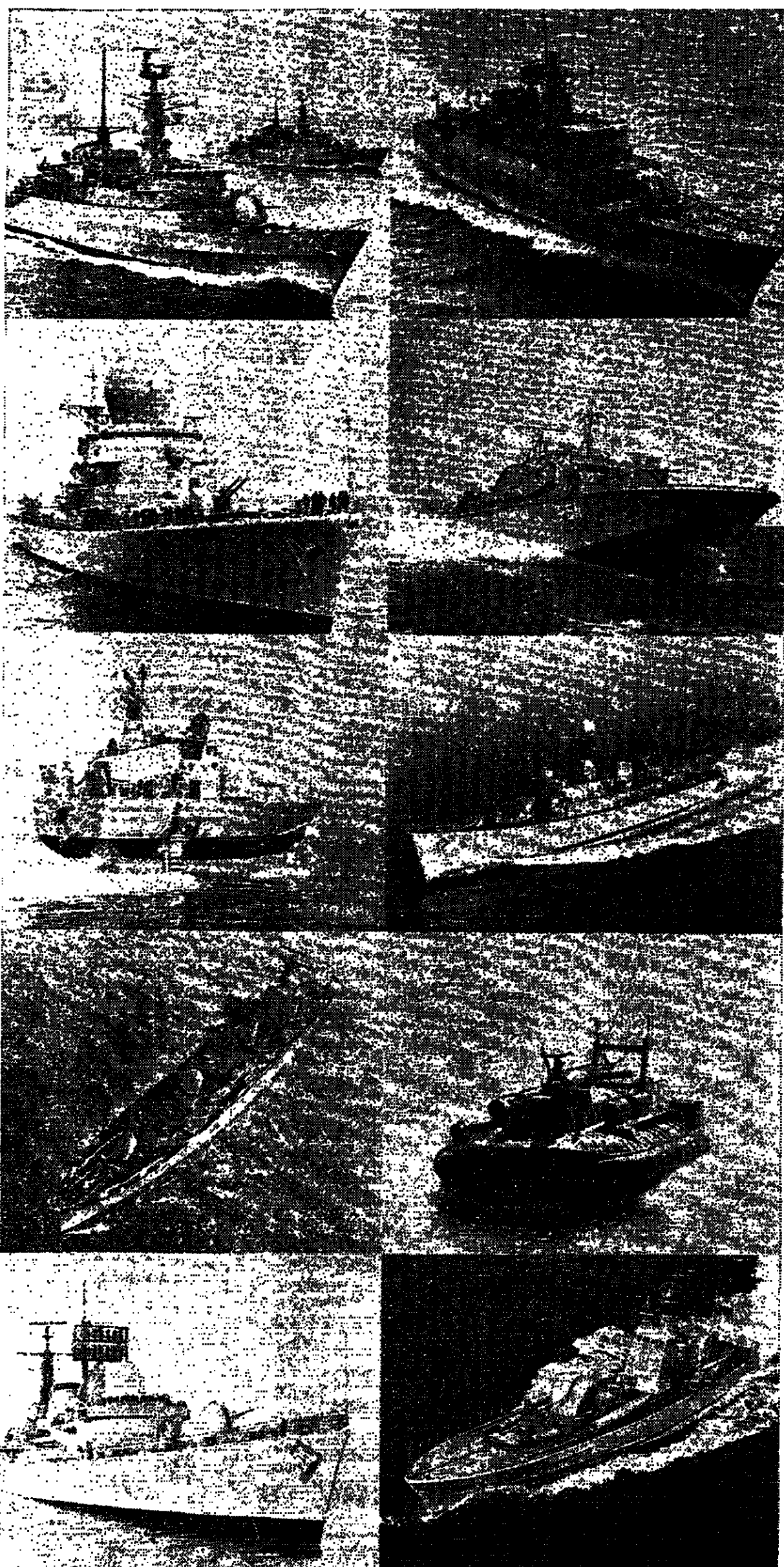
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Michael Abrahams



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Sea
Power

Thin blue line contracts but is still flexible

by Henry Stanhope

At the start of 1977 the Royal Navy is still the largest and most ubiquitous navy in Western Europe. It is a long way behind the navies of the United States and the Soviet Union, and in manpower and in the number of craft, is substantially smaller than the Chinese Navy, too. But it is still an important influence on maritime affairs. Seventy fleets of varying aspirations still send their ships and sailors to these offshore islands to be trained according to a tradition which began with Alfred the Great. Its fleet is still balanced, with 31 submarines (four Polaris, nine hunter/killers and 18 diesel-electric), about 65 frigates/destroyers and five larger warships including one aircraft-carrier, the Ark Royal, which will soon begin its last voyage, to the breaker's yard. But even the Fleet Air Arm will remain in interest in fixed-wing air power when the Sea Harrier joins first HMS Hermes, then the three new Invincible-class anti-submarine cruisers at the end of the decade.

The Navy had at the last count 64,660 men and nearly 4,000 women. A shortage of experienced leading ratings and certain categories of officers, notably engineers and electricians, has been a problem since the days of the press gang. However, a current surge to the recruiting offices—not entirely disconnected with high civilian unemployment rates in Britain—suggests that these shortages should be repaired in a few years' time. Three out of every four ratings begin their career as junior sailors at the shore-based training establishment HMS Raleigh.

Morale is surprisingly high—surprising if only because of defence cuts—nearly the highest in the 1975 defence Review, in 1975 which diminished naval manpower by 5,000. Surprising also perhaps, because it is Navy whose horizons have been steadily shrinking since the heady days of Empire. It is not so long ago that the thin blue line wound round the Far and Middle East, and ships cruised round the West Indies like amekippers patrolling their rounds. Now only a handful of patrol boats at Hong Kong and a frigate at Gibraltar remain. For most sailors, for most of the time, the world as become the eastern Atlantic.

On the other hand, the impression of the sailor's world has been only relative. War task groups a year usually steam away to warmer waters—ideally one to the Indian Ocean and the Far East, another to the West Indies. Uncertainties in demand the presence of a frigate at most times in Central American waters, and others find an outlet for their global pretensions in Nato exercises in the Mediterranean from time to time.

The Royal Navy is too small. It is certainly smaller than the Sea Lords would like, given their not inconsiderable commitments. For instance the number of anti-submarine task groups that the Royal Navy can now find for patrolling the sea lanes in the eastern Atlantic is limited to three—two at sea at any one time while the third is in port refitting or taking on supplies. Ideally there should be one more to provide a better guarantee that up to 400 million tons of ammunition could be shifted over the Atlantic for troops in Europe in the event of war.

The United States Navy could supervise the transit of supplies as far as the Western Approaches. But it would be up to the Royal Navy and its Western European allies, with their mine counter measures ships and smaller, diesel-electric submarines which would have to clear the way for the supply ships through the shallow waters of the Channel. The United States Navy is simply not equipped for that kind of shallow-water work.

The Navy believes that morale depends to a large extent upon the quantity and quality of the ships that are procured. At present there are three of the new Type-22 frigates on order, along with nine Type-42 Sheffield-class destroyers and all the Type-21 Amazon-class frigates. But the Navy needs to build at the rate of 2.7 frigates/destroyers a year to maintain its force at the desired level.

The orders rate slowed down as a result of the 1974-75 Defence Review, and although it has since picked up again it is still some way behind the desired annual 2.7. Meanwhile the programme for building nuclear-powered attack submarines, at the rate of one every 15 to 18 months, is continuing and the Royal Navy is aiming at 16 of them eventually in service.

One restriction on building ships is the availability of cash and another is shipbuilding capacity. Building warships is a highly specialised business and naval policy has been to concentrate on a few yards which can then be encouraged to build up this special knowledge. Even so it is difficult to keep a yard's labour force occupied by an even flow of work. What the Royal Navy would like to do is to give a shipbuilder a batch of orders to keep him occupied over a period of years, which would mean continuity in his workforce and more economy all round.

One of the most important decisions during the next few years concerns the procurement of a new class of conventional diesel-electric submarines, to replace first the Porpoise class and then the Oberons. The Royal Navy is by and large satisfied with the nuclear-powered submarine programme. But nuclear submarines, while fast and capable of long endurance under water, are also noisy and rather large to navigate some of the shallower waters round Britain's coasts. A report is already in circulation in the Ministry of Defence setting out the possible requirement for a new class of smaller, conventional craft.

Although his horizons have come gradually nearer during the past few years, the British sailor can still expect to spend two thirds of his early years in the Royal Navy at sea. A young officer must resign himself to being on sea-going appointments for about eight of his first 13 years in the service—although the ratios are almost exactly reversed after that. Even so, the Royal Navy has no trouble in finding volunteers for overseas travel. Scarcity value has added an extra gloss to the idea of deep blue water and tropical sunshine.

The extension of Britain's fishing limits and the burgeoning offshore oil and gas industry in the North Sea have added a new and not entirely desirable dimension to the Royal Navy's role. On the one hand it keeps the service in the public eye and reminds the electorate that the Royal Navy is not a luxury, left over from the days when Britain could afford such things. On the other hand it means that the Royal Navy has to divert some of its resources when those resources are already fully stretched in patrolling the eastern Atlantic sea lanes, and showing the flag in those more distant waters where Britain has trading interests.

But the Royal Navy still makes a unique contribution to Nato. Allies who may complain about any diminution in the British contribution to the alliance's central front in Germany or to the reinforcements of the southern flank, often forget the maritime contribution that Britain makes. No other country, except perhaps France, is in a position to make it. The West Germans would need years in which to build up the kind of navy and the kind of experience needed for operations in the North Atlantic after the hiatus since the Second World War. The French meanwhile are concentrating on Mediterranean operations, filling the gap left by Britain's own departure.

The Royal Navy's world may have shrunk. But in that world the White Ensign still flutters bravely enough. Whether it flutters from enough ships is another matter.

The author is Defence Correspondent, The Times.

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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association
'GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE—PLEASE'

by Henry Stanhope

Britain no longer rules the waves, not even some of them; she can only help to ensure that nobody else does either. The Royal Navy still provides 70 per cent of Nato forces in the eastern Atlantic, which stretches from the east coast of Greenland to the pined western shores of Norway. In recognition of this, the only important Nato command to be held by a non-American is the Allied Command Channel, which belongs to Britain's Commander-in-Chief Fleet in his underground bunker at Northwood, Middlesex, more than a telescope's range from the sea.

At any one time the White Ensign still flutters from 40 warships of frigate size and above, 20 submarines and 50 smaller craft in the region, together with their supply vessels from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. With 60 per cent of the world's maritime trade crossing the North Atlantic and more than 120 ships discharging three

million tons of cargo daily in the ports of western Europe, it would be difficult to argue that the Government has got its priorities wrong. Whether Nato's combined efforts are enough is another matter.

In wartime 90 per cent of the transatlantic supplies on which the forces in Western Europe would depend would come by sea. Studies are being made of ways to reduce this dependence. One solution could be to make greater provision for the use of civil aircraft and another might be to pre-position more stocks in the Norwegian fjords for example. But the effects are likely to be marginal, and the integrity of the North Atlantic sea lanes remains an imperative.

Nato enjoys one great advantage, which is that ships from the Soviet Union's powerful Northern Fleet are funnelled through the Greenland-United Kingdom (GIUK) gap, on their passage from Murmansk to the North Atlantic. On the other hand the Soviet Union's minimal dependence on strategic

imports allows the Russian Navy to be wholly offensive rather than defensive, in a conventional war.

At present the Northern Fleet has about twice as many surface ships as Nato in the eastern Atlantic. 17 times the number of Allied submarines and one and half times as many aircraft. There are infinite arguments over the relative strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet Navy, in terms of quantity and quality. But the North Atlantic is so crucial to Nato strategy that any threat to it resembles a knife aimed at one's jugular vein.

The most obvious threat is that posed by the submarine, partly because of its very nature and partly because of the underwater bias in the Soviet Navy, with about 340 submarines afloat, more than 140 of them nuclear-powered, and a new nuclear-powered boat sliding off the dockyard ways every five weeks. The Western European Nato navies, only Britain with nine nuclear attack submarines in commission—apart from its Polaris boats—and a pro-

gramme target of 16, belong to the same league—and even Britain only just qualifies.

The Soviet Union believes and Nato will neither confirm nor deny, that a chain of sonar devices spans the GIUK gap, to monitor submarines from the Northern Fleet as they slip into the open Atlantic. But as Soviet warships now travel the globe under Russian blue water strategy, the Northern Fleet would probably make sure it has drawn all the submarines it needs through the GIUK funnel before any hostilities started. To close the GIUK gap, difficult enough in itself, would be like shutting the stable door after the horse had bolted.

The whole concept of a defensive screen to protect convoys chugging across the Atlantic in wartime has had to be amended with the increased range of modern weapons—like the Russian SSN-3 cruise missile whose range varies between 300 and 450 miles. Moreover a tightly controlled convoy which might have huddled together

for strength in the last war, would be vulnerable to nuclear attack.

Defence in depth is the overriding factor in the North Atlantic. The picture is three dimensional, with maritime reconnaissance aircraft flown by the RAF carrying out long-range patrols, and Sea King and Wessex-3 anti-submarine helicopters, sent from Royal Navy warships, "dunking" their sonar listening devices into the thermal layers of the North Atlantic to trap the enemy hunter-killer submarines, before launching their torpedoes.

Because two, and preferably three, helicopters are needed to fix the position of the submarine, it is not only cheaper but tactically desirable to put helicopters to sea in groups—as on the new invisible class of anti-submarine cruisers, or on HMS Hermes and for the time being on the more elderly, constructed decks of helicopter cruisers like Tiger and Blake.

A typical task force, briefed to sweep the sea

lanes clear for a convoy of vital supplies, might include an anti-submarine cruiser like the invisible, a couple of Type-42 Sheffield Class destroyers with their Sea Dart missiles for area air defence, one or two nuclear-powered attack submarines armed with their own, probably passive sonar, and eventually the Sub-Harpoon missile, and several frigates adding a mixture of Sea Wolf anti-missile missiles, Exocet anti-ship missiles, Ikara anti-submarine missiles and 4.5in guns.

Slow-moving merchant ships would still need escorting across the Atlantic, if in rather different formation from those of the Second World War. But faster armed merchantmen could conceivably make the voyage on their own along a route periodically "cleared" by a task force on the lookout for enemy marauders.

The Royal Navy has remained among the leading navies of the world in the difficult science of anti-submarine warfare. But ASW scientists have not yet found the breakthrough which would bring a decisive advantage to the defence. Active sonar which bounces a signal off the target submarine cannot reach more than an estimated 10 miles or so, and only as far as that in good conditions. Passive sonar which involves listening to the other boat's noise "signature" can extend much further but cannot determine the other boat's range. The balance of advantage still lies with the fast, long-endurance nuclear powered submarine which dashes in to make its kill, speed before the defending navy can establish a "fix" and retaliate.

More to be done at home

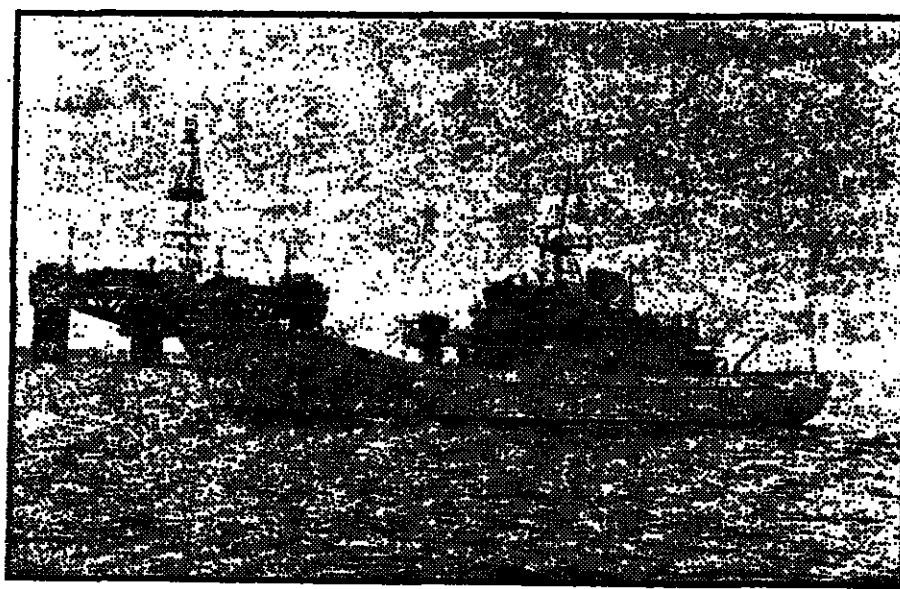
by Captain John Moore

The past 30 years have brought a surprising increase in the tasks facing the maritime forces employed around the coasts of Britain. In pre-war years the main concern was fishery protection. Since peace-time hostilities started in Greece in 1946 there has been a rising flood of jobs to be done.

The arrival of giant tankers has increased the risk of pollution beyond the belief of 15 years ago and has multiplied the hydrographer's requirements enormously. Repressive activities in certain Commonwealth countries have brought a surge of illegal immigrants. High prices and quick profits have expanded the scope of the smugglers. The discovery of large oil and gas fields has produced a great crop of rigs in various areas, some close to and some distant from our shores.

These are but a few of the maritime problems now facing our planners behind them all lurks the sinister prospect of international terrorism, financed by such states as Libya, Iraq and the Soviet Union.

These are some of the tasks which now face the Government. Add to them



HMS Jersey passes through Kirkcaldy Bay, Fife, on her way to protection duty in the North Sea.

the problems of search and rescue for both air and surface accidents, the control of shipping in confined waters, the discharge and dumping of refuse, the possibility of industrial action and unrest on rigs, collision and fire on the same rigs, the manifold problems presented by wrecks, the reappearance of wartime mines and the possibility of sabotage in ships and the use of mines and time-bombs extending

from the shore to harbour areas outside close coastal and riverine waters would fall on the Royal Navy. At a time when successive defence cuts have seriously eroded the Navy's numbers it is worth considering not only what is available for such tasks but what would improve this situation.

Last October, Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, complained that criticisms of defence cuts were "lost in emotion but start in facts". The facts are simple—the active fleet now comprises one aircraft carrier, two helicopter cruisers, eight light cruisers, two destroyers, 19 frigates (some in various stages of refit), four ballistic missile submarines, nine fleet submarines, 19 patrol submarines, one assault ship, one helicopter support ship (RFA), 28 minesweepers and minehunters (MCMVs) with a support ship and eight RNR sweepers, two offshore patrol craft, five modified minesweepers in Hongkong, three unarmed fast training boats and one fast attack craft, four survey ships, four coastal survey vessels and five inshore surveying craft.

Future programmes include helicopter cruisers, destroyers, frigates, fleet submarines, mine counter measures vessels and the remainder of the offshore and patrol craft. Most of these are designed for fleet operations. Only the MCMVs, coastal survey vessels and patrol craft are suited for operations such as have been discussed.

The recent fracas off Iceland taught us again of the vulnerability of modern frigates to bangs and bumps. If they, the main strength of the Navy, are to be relegated to a back-up role we are left with the aging minesweepers and the two types of patrol craft. Of these the former being at least 20 years old and the latter Kingfishers, the Island and Kingfisher classes, represent a poor return for capital outlay. The Islands are no more than guided freezer-trawlers, costing more than similar ships in the fishery business at £2.6m (at least), capable of only 16 knots and lacking helicopter facilities.

The Kingfishers are a redesign of the Seal class of the RAF and lack the beam to provide a steady platform in a sea-way. They will all be confronting craft of 20 knots or more and will require a long-range reconnaissance facility, the ability to cope with fires and pollution and, perhaps, underwater problems. They fail, therefore, to match the tasks.

Do we in the United Kingdom have adequate designs to fill the need and the ability to build them? As always, in a maritime community, the answer is "yes". The designs exist—25-knot corvettes with helicopter facilities, the Astrea design now built in Canada for Mexico, the current coastal survey vessels. These designs would meet all Britain's needs if parliamentary and domestic cries by their supporters are not to be allowed to imperil the safety of those ships and rigs which mean the survival of our country—the merchant and fishing fleets allied with the oil and gas rigs off our shores.

The author is editor, Jane's Fighting Ships.

by Penny Symon

The three women's Services celebrate their diamond jubilee this year, and the Women's Royal Naval Service will be the subject of an exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. Former Wrens will be asked to lend mementoes of their days in the Service for the exhibition, which is expected to be open for about six months.

The WRNS came into being in 1917, with Dame Katharine Furze as director, and was disbanded two years later. The women took on such jobs as wireless telegraphy, coding and cyphering, as well as clerical and domestic duties and driving. At the end of the First World War the strength of the corps was 4,621.

In August 1938 the Admiralty Board decided that there was a need for women to assist the Navy as a separate corps, and to be organized on a civilian basis. In April 1939 it was announced that a corps to be known as the Women's Royal Naval Service was to be formed. It would replace Naval officers and men on certain duties in time of war.

Until war did break out, Wrens were recruited but lived in their own homes and attended a prescribed number of weekly drills at Chatham, Portsmouth, Devonport and Rosyth. On September 3, 1939, there were about a thousand of those "immobile" Wrens employed in communications, driving, cooking, writing and as stewards. Permission was then obtained for the recruitment of officers and ratings to serve in various parts of Britain.

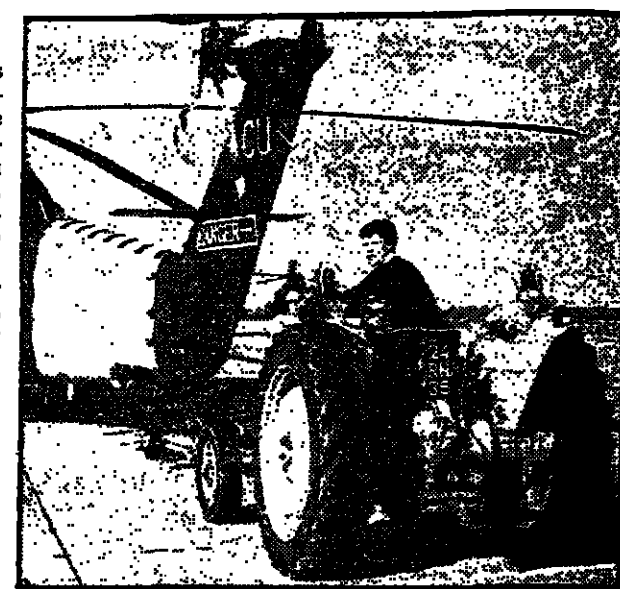
The Service expanded in 1941 and 1942 and work categories were introduced concerning the maintenance of aircraft, weapons and small craft. The first WRNS draft, consisting of 20 chief Wren wireless operators and a second officer, sailed for Singapore in 1941 and others were sent to Washington and Gibraltar.

In 1942 Wrens were drafted to Alexandria, as well as the Middle and Far East. In 1944, the total force was 74,620, but it was reduced to 10,000 at the end of the war. In 1949, the Service became an integral and permanent part of the Naval Service.

Surprisingly, there was a waiting list to join in war time. One former Wren, who had been waiting to join for four months in 1943, was told at her interview that there were very few vacancies, but that a vacancy was needed at the training establishment at Mill Hill. Weeding the flowerbeds did not fit in with her plans for life on the ocean wave. The alternative was for her to be a cook. This was also declined, and finally the interviewing officer found a vacancy in wireless telegraphy, as long as she could prove that she was a mechanical engineer and able to mend a puncture on a bicycle tyre satisfied that requirement.

She was posted to what was then Ceylon, which resembled a Hollywood film set for an 18-year-old who had never been east of Felixstowe. Demobilization came two years later, and she handed over her uniform without emotion. "I felt nothing until it came to my hat. That dear little pancake hat with its silk taily band; it has suited me so well, made me feel bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and I believe that it was because of that little hat that I had joined the WRNS in the first place." The affection for the Service, the opportunities for travel, even in the present financial circumstances, as well as the waiting list, remain.

About 6,500 women applied to join in the recruitment year beginning April 1975, and 5,500 have already done so in this one, which ends next April. The average waiting time is about three months, and as only about 800 new entries are required each year, the selection process is stringent. There are now 250 officers and 3,000 ratings in the Ser-



One of the few Wren air mechanics who are tractor drivers.

vice. Ratings aged under 17½ are paid a basic £23.66 a week, increasing to £31.29 over 17½, and to between £57.47 and £59.01 for a chief Wren. Third officers receive between £2,555 and £3,508 a year, increasing to between £4,435 and £7,132 for chief officers and between £7,921 and £8,782 for superintendents.

The Navy relies on Wrens to be good at their jobs, and treats them with courtesy. There is partnership, not rivalry. They do not serve at sea, but once they have been trained for their particular job, they go to a Naval shore establishment in Britain or overseas.

HMS Dryad in Hampshire is the Navigation and Direction School, equipped with the most modern tactical training equipment, used in daily exercises to train commanders and crews in sea manoeuvres and tactics.

Radar Wrens play a vital part in preparing and running these exercises. Quarter petty officers look after accommodation, helped by stewards. There are writers, stores accountants, a captain's driver, training support assistant, a dental surgery assistant, and a chief Wren regulating welfare and discipline.

HMS Heron at Yeovilton, Somerset, is a typical air station. In the control tower, Wrens are employed as meteorological observers and in operating radar. They also service aircraft, cook, show instructional films, operate switchboards, and work in the communications centre where they receive and distribute signals to and from ships and other Naval establishments. Wren air mechanics help to maintain aircraft, and they must not mind getting dirty or working outdoors in wet and blustery weather.

Weapon analysts assess the results of weapon practices and assist in photographic editing. They also monitor aircraft during target exercises in firing ranges. There have been several moves lately towards closer

integration with the Navy. The WRNS officers' training course, which had been at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, since 1939, has just moved to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, which already provides general naval training for midshipmen, graduate entry officers, aircrew, doctors, dentists, chaplains, and QARNNS nursing sisters.

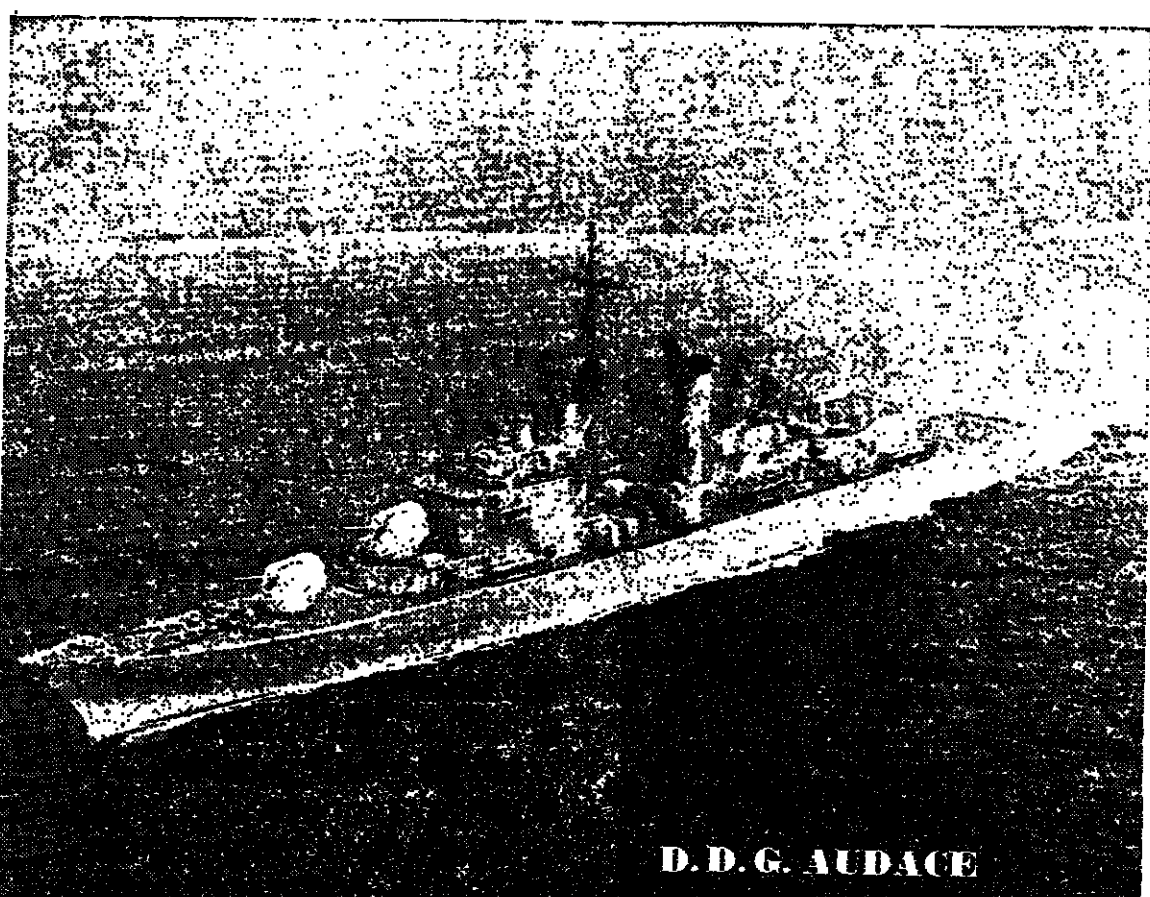
Officers are drawn from three sources: ratings selected for promotion, cadets Wrens who enter with two A levels and serve for a year as ratings before selection for officer training, and direct entrants with a degree or comparable qualification.

New entry training for ratings, now at Burghfield, near Reading, will move to HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall, in 1980, where the women will work alongside new Naval ratings.

Commandant Vonla McBride, who was appointed Director of the WRNS in August of this year, is not in favour of total integration with the Navy which, in any case, would not happen because all the women's services within Nato countries are non-combatant.

"There is a great deal of valuable work that we can do ashore, and I am happy with the progress that is being made, although there is some way to go yet," she says. "We have a happy relationship with the Navy, which regards us with affection and as something special. If we went all out for total equality, I think that would be spoiled. The Navy appreciates the work we do, but treats us as women."

Miss McBride says that the range of jobs available is very wide, and appeals to every type of girl. "Girls are trained alongside the men, and there are still opportunities for women overseas. Our corps comports favourably with that of the men, and an increasing number of women are making the Service their career. It is an attractive life."



D. D. G. AUDACE



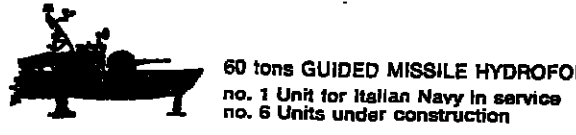
2400 tons GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATES under construction
no. 4 Units for Italian Navy
no. 4 Units for Peruvian Navy
no. 6 Units for Venezuelan Navy



UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT SHIP
no. 2 Units for Italian Navy
no. 1 in service
no. 1 under construction



1700 tons HYDROGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIP
no. 1 Unit for Italian Navy in service



550 tons GUIDED MISSILE CORVETTE
no. 4 Units under construction for Libyan Navy



60 tons GUIDED MISSILE HYDROFOIL
no. 1 Unit for Italian Navy in service
no. 6 Units under construction



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The Silver Jubilee Fleet Review

Official Souvenir Programme
will be on sale exclusively from the HMS Victory Souvenir Shop in HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, from 1st June 1977, price 50 pence.
The beautifully produced 11½ in. by 8½ in. book with 24 pages of information, pictures and an 8 page gazette showing the Review Anchorage at Spithead will also contain the Official Timetable of Events.
Copies of the price inclusive postage booklet will be available in the HMS Victory Souvenir Shop, HMS Victory, Portsmouth, from 1st June 1977, price 50 pence. Please order early to avoid disappointment.

Swing-winging into a new era

by Arthur Reed

Aviation in the Royal Navy is in a period of important change, but with the arrival of the Sea Harrier it should, by the 1980s, be completely reformed and well able to continue playing its part in controlling the approaches to the Atlantic from the Baltic.

The period of change could be said to have begun in the mid-1960s with a government decision to phase out aircraft carriers. It then looked as if fixed-wing aircraft had no future in the Royal Navy, but their role was re-evaluated, and in 1969 the decision was made to order the through-deck cruiser, and the Sea Harrier. The normal number of Sea Harriers in each of the three new types of ship which the Navy expects to have will be five, as well as helicopters. A total of 25 Sea Harriers, one a two-seat trainer, are on order.

Admiral Royal, the Navy's only active carrier, is scheduled to go out of service by the end of the 1970s, although it will be replaced on a short-term basis by Hermes, a helicopter carrier, which is to be brought out of reserve for anti-submarine duties.

With the retirement of Admiral Royal, the Navy's last long-range anti-ship attack aircraft, and Gannet, an early warning and strike direction aircraft, will leave the service, some of them bound for the Royal Air Force.

Sea Harriers, the first of which is now being built at Hawker Siddeley's works at Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, and is expected to fly in the autumn of 1977, will be the last of the fleet two years later, will be deployed off the through-deck cruisers, largely in opposition to the Sea Harrier.

Soviet long-range reconnaissance aircraft. It will have a number of other roles, including reconnaissance, and ship-attack using Stand-off missiles.

The Navy emphasizes that it is not seeking to do the RAF's job with the Harrier. There are occasions, however, when ships are out in the deep water of the north Atlantic and are well out of range of land-based defensive aircraft.

The RAP will figure large during the introductory phase of the Sea Harrier. Royal Navy aircrew will be trained by the junior service up to conversion to vertical/short takeoff and landing, and RAF pilots will be in the first naval squadrons to be formed.

Sea Harriers are based on the GR3 version of the Harrier which the RAF has had in service for almost 10 years. Adaptation to a naval role has been fairly cheap, consisting mainly of raising and redesigning the cockpit to give better visibility for operations from heaving decks, changing the avionics, and adding a naval attack role of the RAF to sea defence, and modifying the undercarriage and other parts.

Opinion in the Royal Navy is that the Harrier will now benefit from the development which it merited years ago, and that service in its hands will open the sales door for this remarkable aircraft to numerous foreign customers, in particular the United States Navy, which has a requirement for several hundred. Among the interesting uses for the Sea Harrier now being explored is "skipping" from the end of a ship's deck to give better performance, greater safety and an improved payload.

While the Sea Harrier is the most important new aircraft being introduced, the Navy is not allowing it to overshadow its helicopter fleets.

The main Royal Navy rotary wing types are the Westland Sea King and the Westland Lynx. The Lynx, both of which have an important anti-submarine warfare role. Sea Kings have been in service for some



The Westland Navy Lynx, which carries four BAC Sea Skua missiles for use against surface ships.

years, but the Lynx is a new comer, with the first of the 60 on order now at the intensive flying trials unit at Yeovilton in preparation for the first aircraft flight going to sea at the end of 1977.

Total sales of the Navy type of Lynx are 113: the other buyers being Holland, France, Brazil and Argentina. Other Nato countries which

are considering taking it into their inventory are West Germany, Norway and Denmark, and the Royal Navy believes that it will receive future contracts to teach partner countries to fly and operate it. Dutch naval officers and ratings are already undergoing Royal Navy Lynx courses in Britain.

Both the Lynx and the big

ger Seaking are equipped with "dunking sonar", a listening device which can be suspended in the sea while the helicopter hovers, picking up the sound of enemy submarines. The Lynx will replace the older Westland Wasp in operations from the Navy's smaller ships, and equipped with the Sea Skua missile it will have a greatly

Some of the worst wounds...



It used to be called shell-shock. Now we know more. We know that there are limitations to the human mind. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen all risk mental breakdown from over-exposure to death and violence whilst in the service of our Country. Service... in keeping the peace no less than in making war.

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"They've given more than they could— please give as much as you can."

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Quality if not quantity

by Captain Roger Villar

The year 1966 saw the end of the Navy's plans for more aircraft carriers. To a fleet which had built its whole being around the carrier— for strike, for defence against aircraft, for anti-submarine warfare—the cut went to the very root of its structure. A radical reappraisal was essential.

It took two years to evolve an alternative plan. It had to be a long-term plan if only because of the 10 to 15 years needed to develop new weapons to replace the carrier's lost abilities. It had to be a balanced plan to cover all aspects of naval war. And it had to be flexible to match advancing and accelerating technology.

The Navy is in the middle of its new 20-year plan. It has some remarkable weaponry. Not all of it comes from Britain, because it is useful to share the development cost with others when this may amount to £100m or more. But British developments are well to the fore.

To replace the lost long-range strike ability of the carriers, which had a tremendous advantage in keeping an enemy at a distance where his own weapons may be ineffective, come anti-ship missiles. The French ship-launched Exocet, which reaches to 40 kilometres, is already at sea. Although it is in no way matches the lost carriers or the over-present Russians, it is a first step.

To match the Russians, two steps are planned. First, to cooperate with Nato in

their development of a longer-range missile. Second, to take advantage of what is there, the Navy will use the American 50-mile Harpoon missile, which can be launched from a submerged submarine.

But it is not enough merely to match the Russians. If they are to be deterred, they must be outdone. The Sea Skua missile being developed for firing from the Lynx helicopter will enable the very limit of the helicopter's range. It gives long-range offensive ability to the many ships that can carry a helicopter.

For defence against the missiles which form today's threat more than aircraft, the Navy plans a defence in depth with a variety of equipment of which defensive missiles are the main components.

The Seadart missile is the medium-range defensive

system. It is the most modern of its kind and is at sea in the Sheffield class destroyers. It forms the first line in a defence in depth and can also cover, to some extent, other ships in close company.

Backing this up is the Sea Wolf short-range defensive missile system, a world-beater which can engage targets as small as a 4.5 in shell travelling at twice the speed of sound. No other system with its anti-missile capability has even begun to be developed elsewhere.

Anti-submarine warfare is covered by a host of equipment reaching out to greater and greater ranges to give the same defence in depth as is needed in the missile defence systems. At short range come surface ships with two new hull sonars and the American mark 46 homing torpedo, which will be replaced by new British torpedoes now being de-

veloped. The Ikara anti-submarine missile system reaches out to some 10 miles. Helicopters—the Lynx with homing torpedoes and the Seaking mark 2 with a new weapon system under consideration—will go further out. Nuclear submarines with two completely new sonars and the Tigerfish torpedo will operate in company with the surface fleet.

Anti-submarine warfare is perhaps the most secretive of the lot. There is no doubt that important developments are going on. Equally there is no doubt that the Navy will not talk. So, with all this, the Royal Navy is today up with the hunt in terms of quality. It will soon have the Harrier aircraft at sea. It is going in for offensive mining after a virtual drop-out since the last war and its new mine counter-measures vessel will have the largest glass fibre hull in the world. Soon it

will start to investigate and proved, will not be at sea with the fleet for another five years.

It is becoming the custom to carry out defence reviews. Three reductions were announced in 1973, another in April, 1974. The defence estimates for 1975 made major cuts for every year up to 1984, and the Chancellor added to these in his budget statement. In 1975 there were three further reductions. The total announced since May 1973 is about £9,000m.

There is one man who should know the Navy's future, the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff. All planning for the fleet of the future and the present is his responsibility. Asked where the Navy stood today, he replied: "Really on the bone."

The author is naval adviser to the British Aircraft Corporation (Guided Weapons Division).

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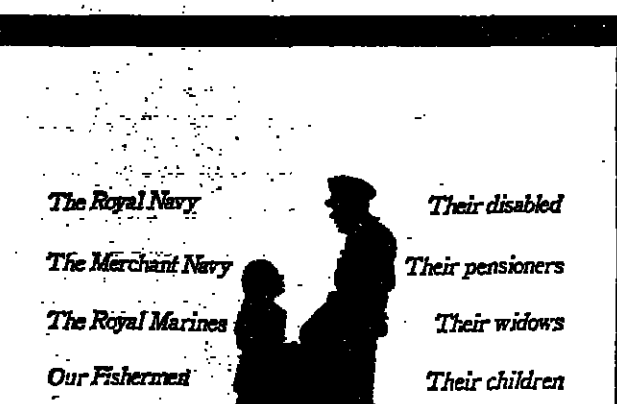
Marines lose their place in the sun

As the Royal Marines march past to "A Life on the Ocean Wave" these days, they suffer from obvious financial and philosophical constraints which have characterized British life on it as long as once it seemed. No other branch of the Armed Ser-

vice, except perhaps the RAF Transport fleet, has suffered from obvious financial and philosophical constraints which have characterized British life on it as long as once it seemed. No other branch of the Armed Ser-

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The Royal Marines Their widows
Our Fishermen Their children

King George's Fund for Sailors looks after them all

In this Country of ours, there is no-one who is not connected with the sea.

Half the food we eat comes from across the sea. Many thousands of us, our relatives or friends are past or present members of one of the sea-faring services, or of an industry dependent on them.

There are many charities for seafarers and their families. One, only one, however, is the central charity, charged with collecting and providing funds for all other seafarers' charities, and with making sure that the money is distributed where it can be of most use.

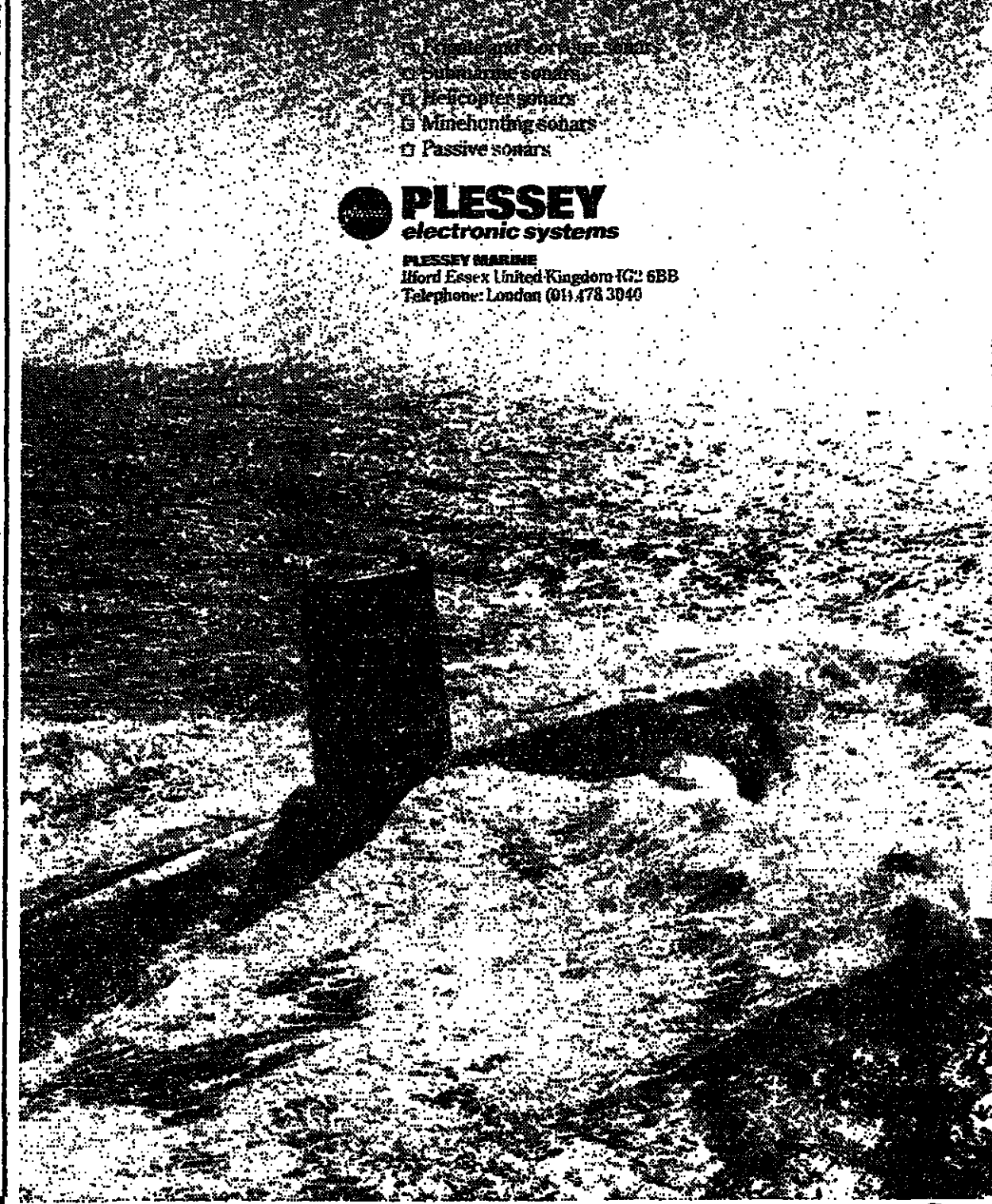
That central charity is King George's Fund for Sailors. Launched in 1917 at His Majesty's personal wish, KGFS distributes funds without distinction of service, of rank or of creed. The sole criterion is to distribute the money to the areas of greatest need.

When you want to remember our seafarers who are in need, remember King George's Fund for Sailors. We'll see to it that not one penny of your money goes to waste.

Please send your donation to:-

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Before we make up our minds about you, come and see what you think of us.



We thought we'd take advantage of this Special Report on the Royal Navy to tell you something about the acquaint visits that will be available to school and university students during the year.

These visits, which range in duration from one to five days, are designed to give you a fair picture of what you can expect from a career as an Officer in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines and what we shall expect from you as an Officer. There will be a number of opportunities to discuss naval life with young Officers in your own age group.

This year the programme includes visits to Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, the major naval bases at Plymouth, Portsmouth and Rosyth, including time in Her Majesty's Ships, and the Royal Naval Air Stations at Culdrose, Cornwall and Yeovilton, Somerset.

Acquaint facilities have also been arranged at the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre at Lympstone, near Exeter.

If you are selected for one of these visits we will, of course, pay your travelling expenses and provide accommodation where necessary.

As you have probably gathered from the surrounding articles, the modern Navy has considerably more to offer than 'a life on the ocean wave'. But this nonetheless remains the main feature of a naval career.

Today's Royal Navy is a highly efficient, tightly-knit, technically-based organisation. The modern technical skills that this demands must be combined with the personal attributes which have traditionally been required of Officers in the Royal Navy.

The demands made on today's Officers are

extremely high. Those who come up to the required standards, however, can look forward to a worthwhile and rewarding career.

If you are genuinely interested in a career as an Officer in the Royal Navy or the Royal Marines, and you'd like to take advantage of the acquaint scheme, or simply wish to have further information on Officer careers, please write to me, giving details of your age, school or university, and present or expected academic qualifications.

Officer Entry Section, (9GX1), Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

Michael Jarrow

ALF JARROW
CAPT US ROYAL NAVY



From Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk
Sir, Mr Fletcher-Cooke points out
that the power to maintain the
"independent" as opposed to the
"appointed" element in the Lords
is becoming atrophied through
three successive Prime Ministers
failure to recommend new
hereditary peerages.

Nobody could wish the annual
creation of such peerages; but it
seems a pity for Prime Ministers
not to be granted the power on their
sleeve by using it very occasionally.
My recollection, subject to correction,
is that Queen Elizabeth I only
created about eight new English
hereditary peers (as opposed to
promotions, e.g. from Viscount
Hereford to be Earl of Essex) in
her reign of over 54 years.

My knowledge is that during the
whole period of Scottish peerage
creations, i.e. throughout the six
centuries between the 1100s and
1707, only about 200 hereditary
peerages were created (again ex-
cluding promotions) and that these
were granted to only about 100
families, all deeply seated, for
generations in our national affairs.

There seem to be three obvious
ways of dealing with the problem
(I hope it won't be invidious to
simply and emphasize my point by
using live guinea-pigs for
examples).

The first is to grant occasional
hereditary peerages to eminent
elderly people without heirs male
of the body. (This is the Wensley-
dale Case in reverse, as Lord
Wensleydale was selected for a term
case life in 1839 because he was
old, had no elderly and childless
sons, and it would not matter if, as
happened, it turned out that he
was sitting turned it into a
nominally hereditary one.) Thus
that prominent octogenarian Labour
life peer Lord Rhodes, KG, DFC
PC, who only has daughters, could
be promoted to an hereditary
Viscountcy with remainder to heirs
male of the body.

The second would be to promote
an existing hereditary peer. Thus
Lord Carrington, KCMG, MC, PC,
Leader of the Conservative Opposi-
tion in the Lords, could be
advanced to an hereditary earldom.

These two methods would keep
the power in Prime Ministers' re-
hands, but not answer Mr Fletcher-
Cooke's original point.

This could be done by a third
method, to be used on extremely
rare occasions, which would be to
create a new hereditary peer with-
out such limitations when he has
no heirs male. This would be such
such as a baroncy or Irish
peerage. Thus the "independent"
element could be continued until
Lords Reform without increasing
the number of hereditary "title
folk" thereafter.

In this Jubilee Year a non-political
charity, perhaps which would be the
Lord Chamberlain, who will be in
charge of the proceedings, and I
already a life peer as Lord
Maclean, KT, GCVO, KBE, PC.
This instance has special qualifica-
tions. He already has an hereditary
title as a Baronet of 1631; and if
he is promoted to an hereditary
Lord Maclean from 1716 in the
Jacobite Peerage created by the
Old Chevalier as "King over the
Water". But above all, in Scotland
a whole clan was intended to be
honoured when the Crown honoured
him, and also the great year of
the great International Gathering
of the Clans to be held in Scotland.
And the Clan Maclean, of which
Lord Maclean is the chief, is one
of the most numerous scattered
throughout not only Scotland but
also the Commonwealth and the
United States.

Yours truly,
IAIN MONCREIFFE OF THAT ILK
Easter Moncreiffe,
Perthshire.
January 5.

Jubilee bonfires

From the Secretary General, The
Royal Institution of Chartered
Surveyors

Sir, In his letter published yesterday
the Secretary Mr B. W. C. Symonds
suggested that bonfires might form
part of the activities to celebrate
the Queen's Jubilee. Such a plan
was announced by the Home Sec-
retary on March 12, 1976. Her Majesty
will light a bonfire in Windsor
Great Park on the evening of Mon-
day, June 6, and this will be the
signal for igniting chains of beacons
throughout the country, linking
Windsor with the extremities of
the United Kingdom. These chains are
being organized by The Royal In-
stitution of Chartered Surveyors.

The principal chain will run from
Windsor through central England
to Edinburgh and Balmoral and ter-
minate at the north of Shetland.
Others will radiate to Sandringham,
Dover, the Channel Islands, the
Isle of Scilly, South and North
Wales, the Isle of Man, Northern
Ireland and the Outer Hebrides. The
locations of the hundred beacons
forming these chains, which will
be announced later this month, will
include many of the beacon hills
used at the time of the Armada.

It is hoped that many other bon-
fires will be organized in associa-
tion with this plan on the night of
June 6.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT STEEL,
The Royal Institution of
Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1.
January 6.

The year of the beaver

From Mr C. R. Wells

Sir, With tax rates of up to 83 per
cent on earned income and interest
rates of 17-20 per cent on money
borrowed for investment, I agree
fully with Mr Jack Jones that 1977
will be the year of the beaver.

Our disagreement will lie in the
choice of the beaver.

Personally, I lean towards Lewis
Carroll's, who very wisely had a
penchant for "a second-hand
bullet-proof coat."

Yours faithfully,
C. R. WELLS,
72 Elizabeth Street, SW1.
January 4.

Leyland to challenge Lucas in car parts market

By Clifford Webb

British Leyland is preparing to challenge Lucas Industries for a slice of the profitable auto-electrics and motor fuel systems in the after sales market which Lucas has dominated for so long.

The move, which comes as a surprise to the trade, is in fact a logical follow-up to the recent merging of six Leyland component companies to form SU/Supac.

The basic plan is to manufacture more equipment for its cars and trucks "in house", as recommended in the Ryder report. The new grouping makes Leyland one of the top 10 component producers in Britain, with a turnover exceeding £65m a year. But its formation has also focused Leyland's attention on the much more profitable spare parts business.

Leyland made a tentative move into auto-electrics some years ago when the Truck and Bus Division set up Butec to manufacture heavy duty starter motors and alternators for its commercial vehicles.

By merging its wholesale agencies handling SU carburettors with those handling Butec's range, Leyland now has a 100-strong network and the means to win sales from the market leader.

But it must expand its restricted range of products and this it is doing. Contact sets, distributors, ignition coils, rotor arms, brushes, bulbs, flasher units and lighting sets are being added. At present these are being bought from other manufacturers—not Lucas—but if demand warrants they will later be made by Butec.

Mr Tim Worral, SU/Butec sales and marketing director, said last night: "This is a logical extension of our auto-electric business from the heavy duty end into passenger car parts. We shall be supplying them for all makes."

Inquiry expected into profits on paint

By Derek Harris

An investigation into prices and profits in the £350m-a-year British paint industry is expected to be ordered soon by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Mr Hattersley, who has been looking at a number of industrial sectors with substantial profit margins, is expected to ask the Price Commission to investigate the structure of the industry, including the exceptional rises in feedstock costs since the oil crisis.

In similar references to the commission, Mr Hattersley has been at pains to point out that an investigation does not necessarily imply evidence of profiteering.

The sharpest rises in paint prices, both in the industrial sector—such as marine and car finishes—and in the decorative sector covering the house market, occurred in 1974. Then prices of retail paints rose 50 per cent in a little over six months.

Retail sources said last night that a litre can of white gloss paint, which was retailing at about £2 in 1975, now carried a notional retail price—recommended prices having been dropped—of nearly £3.

But a general clipping of margins from manufacturer through wholesaler to retailer meant that in many outlets customers could be buying such a litre can at between £1.99 and £2.40.

Mr Graham Chance, president of the London and Southern Counties Ironmongers' Association, said that considerable surplus stocks of paint last year had probably contributed to the relative price stability.

Competition had increased now that supermarkets and discount stores were selling paint in competition with traditional outlets.

The decline in the industrial paint sector, together with the recession in housebuilding, has hit the industry. There are about 350 companies dominated by a few big groups, including ICI, Berger-Jenson and Nicholson (a subsidiary of the German Hoechst chemical group), Reed International and Donald Macpherson, manufacturer of paint sold by F. W. Woolworth.

But the strength of the do-it-yourself market—worth about £70m a year in turnover—has helped makers in the retail sector.

Macpherson in the first half of last year produced a 23 per cent rise in sales value because of volume delivery improvements compared with the previous year as well as the effects of price rises and some abatement of cost increases.

Trading profits nearly doubled at £13.3m and pre-tax profits almost trebled.

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But the strength of the do-it-yourself market—worth about £70m a year in turnover—has helped makers in the retail sector.

Macpherson in the first half of last year produced a 23 per cent rise in sales value because of volume delivery improvements compared with the previous year as well as the effects of price rises and some abatement of cost increases.

Trading profits nearly doubled at £13.3m and pre-tax profits almost trebled.

Mr Hattersley, who has been looking at a number of industrial sectors with substantial profit margins, is expected to ask the Price Commission to investigate the structure of the industry, including the exceptional rises in feedstock costs since the oil crisis.

In similar references to the commission, Mr Hattersley has been at pains to point out that an investigation does not necessarily imply evidence of profiteering.

The sharpest rises in paint prices, both in the industrial sector—such as marine and car finishes—and in the decorative sector covering the house market, occurred in 1974. Then prices of retail paints rose 50 per cent in a little over six months.

Retail sources said last night that a litre can of white gloss paint, which was retailing at about £2 in 1975, now carried a notional retail price—recommended prices having been dropped—of nearly £3.

But a general clipping of margins from manufacturer through wholesaler to retailer meant that in many outlets customers could be buying such a litre can at between £1.99 and £2.40.

Mr Graham Chance, president of the London and Southern Counties Ironmongers' Association, said that considerable surplus stocks of paint last year had probably contributed to the relative price stability.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why industry could get better returns from added value

From Mr E. G. Wood

Sir, As a staunch advocate of added value I was delighted to see Maurice Corina's article (December 30) on the ICI proposals for an employee bonus scheme based on added value rather than overall profits. Let us hope that other companies will follow the lead set by ICI.

It was also heartening to see further recommendation of added value by Mr Roy Pickering, national chairman of the Institution of Works Managers on December 31. Many British companies could benefit considerably from making greater use of the added value concept, not only for measuring company performance and for monitoring productivity, but also as a basis for better understanding of the process of wealth creation and for wage and salary policies.

However, before added value

is seized upon as the latest panacea, may I issue some words of warning. Those who see added value as just a basis for a new bonus scheme should look hard (as ICI have done) before they leap. Added value has much wider connotations than bonus schemes. It would be a pity, if not a tragedy, to see added value misused by over-enthusiastic novices.

There are several organizations and individuals in Britain with experience of using added value for various purposes, but there has been insufficient exchange of information and experience. There is perhaps a need for a national centre for the study of added value to serve as a focal point, to act as a clearing house of information, to carry out research and to devise and present educational programmes on added value and its uses. Such a centre

would promote, rather than inhibit, the activities of existing organizations and individuals. More important, it would draw together a body of knowledge and experience and it would help the uninitiated to avoid the pitfalls.

As a step in this direction, may I suggest a conference in the near future. We would be willing to organize or cooperate in such an event and I would welcome company representatives from all parties interested in participating or attending. Yours faithfully,

E. G. WOOD, Director, Centre for Innovation and Productivity, Sheffield City Polytechnic, Halford House, 16 Pinston Square, Sheffield S12 2EZ, January 3.

Measuring productive capacity

From Mr N. K. Powell

Sir, It is relatively easy to forget that quality, price and delivery are interrelated. Recent contributors to your columns, following the BIM report on the performance of manufacturing industries, are eager to seize on single perspectives, but not all perspectives. I believe we are witnessing a major change in the way in which we measure effective capacity in a manufacturing industry.

Quality is the first casualty, followed by a reduction in innovation; then there comes the phase of relying on a mixture of fear and good will at all levels of the hierarchy to maintain the momentum of production. As the variety in the system is reduced, so the momentum has to increase in order to reduce price and delivery.

During times of inflation, however, one does not reduce the absolute price or delivery, but instead one aims to reduce the rate of increase of these parameters. We should not be surprised if the effective capacity is diminishing at the time when survival is dependent on increasing it, because we have bureaucratized industry by allowing fewer but larger units to develop. The laudable objective of removing fear from the workforce at all levels in a bureaucracy, accompanied by the removal of

good will at the same time among its managers.

The net result is a fundamental change in the way in which we should measure how long it takes to complete a project. Instead of arithmetically adding the estimated work content for each task and regarding the total "planned" hours as chronological hours, thus producing a chronic underestimation of delivery dates, the alternative is to invert the principle of discounted cash flow by compounding the estimated work times prior to adding these together in order to achieve a realistic delivery date.

On a forward planning basis this approach is unlikely to be acceptable by those in marketing and accounting, but retrospectively the production manager has to live with his "failure" to deliver on time. The "failure" is not due to production inefficiency but to a blind spot in the analytical approach adopted by disinterested functional managers.

It is simply a case of neither the stick nor the carrot having any effect, as it remains to be seen whether we invent bigger sticks or bigger carrots for our "donkey engine" economy. Yours faithfully,

NORMAN K. POWELL, Director, Management Course, Manchester Business School, Booth Street West, Manchester.

How Whitehall spends tax revenue

From Mr John Harrison

Sir, Thank you for Oliver Stanley's sensible thoughts on the tax mess (December 17). Would you invite him to contribute a further instalment on the proportion of wealth produced that is taken by tax in its various forms. Maybe we in Britain are not all that highly taxed by comparison with one or two countries, but we lack a clear grasp of how much of our wealth is spent by government and of how that spending is sub-divided.

Some say about 40 per cent of GNP is collected by the tax man. I have seen the figure 60 per cent as another estimate. The variation is a broad one. And does either figure include the excess of new money created over new wealth produced (which surely, Mr Stanley, accrues to government alone and is therefore also a tax).

There are signs of a growing willingness to question the efficiency of the government machine, taxation included, even among those who administer it. May the moment not be right for fostering a greater awareness of where the money goes and how much goes, just as in the household it becomes increasingly important to be clear how much one spends on goods, services, enjoyment, &c, and which one is prepared to curtail in order NOT to outstrip income. We accept to listen to the huckstering of various spending agencies: it's something like listening to the children asking for more toys and games without bothering to show them exactly what's available once food, clothes and shelter have been paid for. Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer need a good PR man?

Yours truly, JOHN HARRISON, Director, Chesham Amalgamations & Investments, 36 Chesham Place, London SW1X 8HE, December 21.

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£30m worth of wasted N Sea gas

From Mr J. R. F. Moss

Sir, Why no outcry at the government's decision to waste £30m worth of our North Sea reserves by permitting gas to be burnt-off? As soon as it was realized, some five years ago, that some of the oil was associated with a high proportion of gas, national policy should have dictated maximum energy recovery.

But as soon as the first draft of the "Pipelines Bill" was seen, many people foresaw that the Secretary of State might be under great pressure, to which he has now yielded, to allow gas to be sacrificed for quick profits.

Mr Vieville's article (December 10) records the government's excuse that oil "worth £100m would then be lost" if permission to burn off was withheld. Not so—the oil flow would only have been delayed whereas the gas will indeed be lost for all time.

It cannot even be pleaded that the late compressor delivery was unforeseeable since precisely the same calamity struck Phillips' Ekofisk field two years ago. The Norwegian Government, however, acted firmly to prohibit large scale oil extraction until the gas could be safeguarded. Even the

Libyan Government has shown more wisdom than when they prevented Gulf Oil from exporting any oil until they had an assured market for the associated gas.

Shell and Occidental cannot be blamed for seeking to earn early revenues from their huge capital outlay but they must ensure that money to the Department of Energy for lack of foresight and failure to act even now.

Yours faithfully, J. R. F. MOSS, 25 Church Street, Stapleford, Cambridge CB2 5DS, December 13.

Mr Carter's reflationary measures may stop at \$15,000m

From Frank Vogel

Washington, Jan 6

Mr Jimmy Carter, the President-elect, is expected to decide on only a relatively modest package of measures to stimulate the American economy.

Bankers in New York and economists advising Mr Carter believe he will announce a reflationary programme totalling about \$15,000m (£9,000m) within the next few days.

Today Mr Carter started meetings with congressional leaders to discuss his financial programme. He has already agreed to give his full support to legislation introduced in Congress earlier this week designed to boost

public works programmes by \$4,000m, with the aim of creating about 600,000 more jobs.

The President-elect's programme will contain numerous tax measures which are likely to enjoy swift congressional passage, while the proposals made by President Ford earlier this week, involving tax cuts in the present calendar year of more than \$12,000m, are expected to be ignored by Congress.

Four weeks after the President-elect was widely expected to support reflationary measures totalling between \$25,000m and \$30,000m, as many Liberal Democrats and trade union

leaders were urging upon him. Now, however, his advisers, in common with a large number of private American economists, have significantly changed their views on the economy's health.

The present mood of substantial optimism now pervading the United States scene is reflected, for example, in a new report by Mr Tilford Gaines, senior vice-president and chief economist of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, who notes that "recent statistics suggest that a strong rate of economic growth is once more under way."

Mr Gaines states that he sees further improvement on the inflation front here, while "we

can be confident of continued economic expansion, rising sales and profits and a gradually declining jobless rate."

Similarly optimistic predictions are being heard, replacing the widespread forecasts of continued sluggish economic activity.

This optimism is reflected in a survey recently conducted by *Business Week* magazine. Most of the experts involved in the survey based their predictions partly on Mr Carter's proposal of a reflationary package of some \$15,000m.

Not one of the 25 economists in the survey saw real gross national product growth here in 1977 at less than 4 per cent, while the average forecast was a 5 per cent gap rate, compared to an estimated annual rate of about 4 per cent for the last half-year.

At the same time all of the economists saw unemployment declining, with the average forecast calling for a national rate of about 7.1 per cent in 1977.

As for inflation, the survey showed that only one of the 25 experts predicted a rate above 7 per cent, while the average forecast was a 5.5 per cent level, which is marginally higher than the annual rate now prevailing.

figures in *Trade and Industry*, released today, total new orders were up 24 per cent on the previous quarter to \$89.7m and 70 per cent better than the corresponding period in 1975. Sales remained at \$85m.

New export orders rose by 40 per cent in value terms over the previous quarter and were 65 per cent higher than in the 1975 period.

Two other Middle East contracts for Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering are for substations worth £2.35m in Jordan and the Sultanate of Oman.

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In brief

Hawker Siddeley wins £6.4m Arab orders

Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering is to build a £4m, seven-megawatt diesel power station in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) under a contract obtained through Kennedy & Donkin, consulting engineers, for the Sharjah Electricity Department.

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Car makers urged to buy state steel

By Peter Hill

Britain's car manufacturers are being urged to step up their steel purchases from the British Steel Corporation, whose supply difficulties since mid-1975 have led car makers to build up supplies from overseas. At the same time, the state steel undertaking is engaged in an aggressive campaign to drive its competitors out of the European Community.

The United Kingdom motor and components industry is one of BSC's major customers, consuming nearly 2.5 million tons of steel in car and commercial vehicle production.

Although the motor industry aims normally to keep foreign steel purchases down to between 10 to 15 per cent of requirements, at some periods last year the element rose to around 40 per cent.

Quarterly contracts are due for renewal next month, and BSC sales executives have pressed British motor companies strongly to place bigger orders with the corporation. Since the summer the BSC has been under great pressure, to which he has now yielded, to allow gas to be sacrificed for quick profits.

There are signs of a growing willingness to question the efficiency of the government machine, taxation included, even among those who administer it. May the moment not be right for fostering a greater awareness of where the money goes and how much goes, just as in the household it becomes increasingly important to be clear how much one spends on goods, services, enjoyment, &c, and which one is prepared to curtail in order NOT to outstrip income. We accept to listen to the huckstering of various spending agencies: it's something like listening to the children asking for more toys and games without bothering to show them exactly what's available once food, clothes and shelter have been paid for. Does the Chancellor of the Exchequer need a good PR man?

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Business appointments

New chairman named for Crane Fruehauf

Mr Angus Murray, deputy chairman of Crane Fruehauf, has been made chairman. He succeeds Mr L. H. Allwood, who remains a director and becomes deputy chairman.

Mr Julian Wathen has become a director of Mercantile and General Reinsurance. Mr A. F. Tulke has resigned.

Mr K. Brierley has joined the board of Nepean.

Mr J. E. S. Brockway has resigned from the board of Sedgwick Forbes Holdings, but becomes resident managing director of Sedgwick Forbes (Bermuda).

Mr D. R. Stevens has joined the board of Midland Bank Trust Co. Mr J. A. Cave has resigned.

Mr J. Jennings and Mr W. V. Vintcent have been elected to the board of American Barrels Ltd from March 1. Mr D. F. Cahalane and Mr C. F. O'Rourke, directors since February 28.

Mr Hugh Armstrong has become managing director of Small Business Capital Fund. He succeeds Mr Jack Laybourne, who remains a director.

Changes announced at Japan International Bank include the departure of Mr Y. Imazumi, director and general manager; Mr S. Watanabe, director; Mr K. Shimizu, director; Mr Y. Kajima, director and general manager; Mr H. Watanabe, director; and Mr K. Okumura, director.

Mr R. E. Davidson, Mr C. Thomson and Mr L. G. Wilson have become associate directors of Lyon De Fabrics International.

Mr O. W. C. Dorsman becomes a director of Kwik-Fit (Tyres & Exhausts) Holdings.

COMPANY MEETING

PLAXTON'S (SCARBOROUGH) LIMITED

(Luxury Coach Body Builders) Extracts from the circulated statement of the chairman, Mr F. W. Plaxton for the year ended August 31st, 1976:

An increase of 34% in turnover produced an improvement in pre-tax profits from £768,013 to £911,210.

Coach Building: The agreement concluded with our labour force together with recruitment and elimination of initial problems enabled better production levels and margins to be attained in the second half of the year.

Repairs and Service: This Division had a somewhat mixed year. Due to increased competition and the long dry summer, repair work was inconsistent, but sales of spare parts increased greatly and more than compensated.

Wired Overhaul Limited: Higher orders and output in later months together with improved internal controls resulted in the final contribution exceeding that achieved last year.

Building: Very full activity was maintained throughout the year both on contract work and shopfitting. In the prevailing conditions the results produced were most satisfactory.

Although forecasting the outcome of this year is a hazardous task, there are factors in the Group's favour. Our new 'Viewmaster' coach was very well received and we have a very healthy order book. Further progress has been made in the export field. Production is continuing at the higher level attained in the latter months of last year. In the absence of further penal legislation and unforeseeable obstacles, I am reasonably confident that improved results will be achieved.

Recovery in exports of car products

British motor product exports recovered in November to \$17m from a low of \$25.6m in October. Imports however continued their steady increase to reach £179m. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said yesterday that the values of November car exports, at £51.5m and commercial vehicles, at £30.3m, were the highest since last June.

Overseas sales of motor parts, components and accessories were at a record total of £148m, half as much again as the value in November, 1975.

For the first 11 months of last year motor industry exports worth £2,982m, 27 per cent up on the same period of 1975. Total imports for the period were £1,505m, up 52 per cent on the previous year.

Luton-based Vauxhall boosted its home car sales in 1976 by 30 per cent, although the total market increased by only 7 per cent. Export performance was even better—44 per cent up.

Tokyo: Japan's automobile manufacturers association and Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders will hold talks in London on January 28 to discuss the share of Japanese cars in the British Market.

Japan lifts sales of motor cycles

Japan accounted for 77 per cent of the 289,670 motor cycles, auto-cycles, and sidecars imported into the United Kingdom during the 11 months to November, 1976, according to the United Kingdom Overseas Trade Statistics. This compares with a 66 per cent share of a smaller total for the same period in 1975.

Healthy UK energy surplus forecast to 1990

Continuing high fuel prices and efforts to promote conservation should enable Britain to enjoy an energy surplus up to 1990 and still export significantly, according to a new report from Cambridge Information and Research Services.

The report, *The Energy Markets to 1990*, points out that high prices and efforts to conserve fuel are helping to keep down consumption when Britain's North Sea oil and gas production is expanding rapidly. In the studies undertaken by the group, Britain emerges with a net energy surplus in 1990 of between 105 and 280 million tons of coal equivalent.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

GEC offers a bird in the hand

There are two points of importance about the GEC capital restructuring: its general implications for GEC shareholders and its specific implications for the market. The first, that the company is offering a bird in the hand, is not surprising. The second, that the market finds the present proposals mildly disappointing, is.

Certainly, the proposals represent a choice of higher income over a higher capital return. But the choice is not a simple one. The company is offering a bird in the hand, and the market is finding it mildly disappointing.



Mr Keith Showering, chairman of Allied Breweries: optimistic about beer volume.

discounting further growth, though the yield of 7.9 per cent at 92p, up 5p yesterday, is above average.

Nine months 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £44.4m
Sales £57.2m (£47.7m)
Pre-tax profits £6.42m (£3.94m)

Gilts Experiments at last?

Floating rate bonds have been underlined by some of the obvious solution to the problem of investors' crippling inability to keep pace with inflation. Such a bond might not quite match the rate of inflation but, being geared to money market rates, would at least approximate to it and rise and fall in line with it.

Yet ironically, if the Government unveils a floating rate bond today, as some expect, it will almost certainly be to a less than rapturous reception. Investing institutions are, by their nature, suspicious of an instrument offering variable returns which cannot be measured against known future liabilities.

They will be even more suspicious of it at the moment since the yield on the new issue is headed down and is anxious therefore to secure as high a fixed rate as they can ahead of any drop. This is precisely not the climate in which to launch a variable rate bond, although cynics will argue that a flop is just what the authorities—basically opposed to changes in established funding methods—want to see so as to kill the spectre of such experiments once and for all.

Certainly established mechanisms have been proving their worth of late. The present long "tap" stock seems likely to expire early next week, with an estimated £550m already sold out of the total £750m issued.

Thereafter, it is felt the Government Broker could pause for breath. The £100m requirement will be effectively completed and it might be the right moment to allow the shortage in the money markets—largely the result of the gilt funding programme—to ease.

J & FB/Dunford
Weighing risk and reward

Johnson & Firth Brown expects to overcome the growing creditability being given to Dunford & Elliott's forecast of a dramatic trading recovery this year with its increased offer. For Dunford shareholders the effective 46p a share bid excludes an additional 10p a share for their preference share rights.

For many small, and a number of not so small shareholders faced with the option of receiving 10p for these rights or having to find £1 a share by mid-January in order to exercise their entitlement, the increased offer must look tempting.

Conversely the new offer still only represents an exit p/e ratio of 2.4 if Dunford's forecast of earnings in the current year proves to be accurate. And the credibility of Dunford's talk of recovery remains the key to the bid.

Dunford hopes to add substance to its optimism by producing impressive first quarter results within the next week or so. If it can show that turnover and trading profit targets are being surpassed Dunford will be able to back up to its argument that the shareholders holding on will finally reap the rewards of their patience when the high gearing that caused its problems over the past two years starts to work in its favour.

The risk/reward balance is, however, very finely weighted. The increased offer may swing a number of the wavering institutions towards the safety first course of accepting, rather than hoping for, a rise in the most impressively spread, tomorrow.

'Banks in the home' receive a check

Banks in the United States are encountering problems in their attempt to bring about the much talked-about electronic-banking revolution. Among them are legal headaches such as a court ruling that the electronic terminal constituted illegal branch banks under Illinois law.

Since the 1950s, American banking experts have talked of a day when the bulk of routine financial transactions, whether deposits, withdrawals or the paying of bills, would be done electronically through remote computer terminals situated conveniently in supermarkets, offices or even private homes.

In this ideal world, cheques would all but disappear. Instead, networks of bank computers, linked electronically, would shuttle funds throughout America, settling in seconds the myriad transactions that normally take days to complete under the present cheque-based system.

However, although the technology now exists for full-scale electronic banking, it has so far failed to make much of an impact on the financial system at the consumer level. Many bank customers seem reluctant to embrace banking of this kind for reasons which range from distrust of the computer to satisfaction with present methods.

Moreover, many financial institutions are bristling at the heavy expense of installing and operating electronic systems, particularly in light of the lukewarm response from the public.

Behind the changeover is a soaring volume of cheques which threatens to choke the banking system despite strides made in recent years in streamlining the industry's cumbersome, labour-intensive cheque-clearing operation.

An impetus for electronic banking is also provided by the competition between the banks and the savings institutions for the nation's \$700,000m of consumer deposits. But the banks have a more immediate incentive: savings institutions have won the right in many areas to offer cheque privileges.

Since the early 1930s financial institutions have pursued individual depositors largely by using the financial system's automated teller and cash machines that have been installed by banks and savings bodies both in their offices and in places such as shopping centres, office buildings and airports.

Cheques and more compact remote terminals, about 10,000 of them so far, have appeared in the check-out areas and credit departments of supermarkets and other retailers.

About a dozen financial institutions have also started offering a bill-paying-by-telephone service. Payments are electronically deducted from customer accounts and routed to the accounts of the parties being paid. It is all done without cheques or postage.

The courts have held that electronic terminals, such as automated tellers and full-service point-of-sale units, are functioning like branches and therefore are subject to state branching laws.

These laws, which exist in nearly 30 states, limit branches geographically—to one county, say, or to a given number of branches within a given distance of the main bank.

The legal muddle may not be serious for some time. According to congressional sources, legislation is expected to be introduced during the present session of the Congress that would free electronic banking from branch restrictions. But the bill is not likely to be considered before late this year when the National Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer, which was established by Congress to examine a broad range of public issues related to electronic banking, is scheduled to complete its work.

Jonathan R. Laing

AP-Dow Jones

North-west: is self-help enough to generate prosperity?

Although industrial planning officials in the North-west have complained that the region's share of the EEC Regional Development Fund is "disappointing", industry leaders have said that North-west industry itself does not need to be "propped up" by "other people". It can, they claim, generate its own prosperity if it puts its mind to it.

The two points of view are not necessarily in conflict. On the one hand industrial development officials have criticized the fact that the North-west—with some of the worst unemployment black spots in the country—has been allocated only £2.7m from the fund while the North-east is getting £11.6m and Scotland £8.5m out of a total allocation to Britain of £28.8m.

Mr Clifford Chapman, director of the North-West Industrial Development Association, says these figures illustrate the fact that the North-west is still not getting its fair share of aid. He points to the fact that although the North-west has had about 10 per cent of the total British aid since 1972, it has only received about 10 per cent of the total British aid since 1972.

However, the view that North-west industry is capable, given the chance, of generating its own, and therefore the region's, prosperity is one of the main conclusions reached in the report, which was put out by the regional headquarters of the Confederation of British Industry.

That survey shows that each of the 53,000 people working for five large organizations in the North-west provided work for one other person among its suppliers or in the retail trades.

And this one for one figure does not allow for many more jobs supported in the public sector by tax and rates payments, both by the companies and their employees.

This shows, the CBI's study group says, just how much the presence of successful industry benefits the local community and how essential it is for industry to thrive if people are to be drawn back into productive employment.

The five organizations involved in the study were Greenall Whitley (brewers), ICI

clides salaries, pensions and national insurance and after paying their rates and taxes, the five organizations had just about £45m left for investment. With this money they not only had to purchase new plant and equipment but also pay interest and dividends, repay loans and finance their working capital.

Mr Michael Tarling, chairman of the CBI study group, says "no one else has ever done a survey in this field. We have been able to put figures to what were for most people just ideas. It is essentially a simple but

the gross national product of the United Kingdom in 1975: was £94,095m so that the five CBI member companies and their 53,000 North-west employees generated 0.33 per cent of the country's total economic activity.

Although the survey has thrown up some interesting facts, it is hardly likely to lead to any lessening of pressure on the government for continuing and increasing regional economic aid. Indeed there is already strong reaction to the Chancellor's decision to end the Regional Employment Premium.

Results of another survey just published—this time by the Amalgamated Textile Workers—show that one in every five jobs in the Lancashire textile industry would have been at risk but for the Government's £20 a week temporary employment subsidy.

In all during the past year 74 spinning and manufacturing firms with 12,300 workers turned to the emergency aid scheme. This represents more than 21 per cent of the total employed in spinning and manufacturing textile industry. Applications accounted for nearly 19 per cent of all applications for subsidy from industry in the North-west and 38 per cent of the jobs threatened.

The survey also shows that 34 textile firms have announced redundancies involving nearly 5,200 workers. These have already taken place or will do so during 1977.

Mr Jack Brown, general secretary of the union, says "It makes us very concerned as to what is likely to happen if the temporary employment subsidy is withdrawn before the fortunes of the Lancashire textile industry have improved".

R W Shakespeare examines recent studies of the region's industrial health

Mond division (chemicals), Pilkington (glass), Rolls-Royce and Vauxhall (motors). Each completed a specially designed questionnaire which analysed in detail how they disposed of their income in a single year (1975). Their purchases were worth £367m. They bought large quantities of fuels, chemicals, metal and engineering goods, textiles and paper and transport—supporting 40,000 jobs in their supplying companies.

Real purchases were worth £367m. They bought large quantities of fuels, chemicals, metal and engineering goods, textiles and paper and transport—supporting 40,000 jobs in their supplying companies.

The purchased goods and services became, after processing, sales worth £577m, both at home and abroad, representing an "added value" of £310m. Of this "added value", after paying employee costs which in-

dynamic system with which we illustrate that externally more sales generate more purchases—and hence more jobs among suppliers and retailers—internally we must aim to enlarge our added value so that we can invest more and create yet more business momentum for the future.

"Our survey shows that in this part of the world we do not need to be propped up by other people. We can make our own prosperity if we put our minds to it."

The £310m of added value among the five companies was made up of £115m in wages; £10m in shareholders; £84m in taxes, £20m in rates, £17m in pension funds and £19m for health and social security payments.

The survey points out that

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

Electronics put the blind and deaf in closer touch with the printed word

Earlier this week the ability to call up "teletext" pages of information on the screen of a domestic television set reached the general public for the first time. What happened to it in Knightsbridge, London, with £395 to spare.

At this price Harrods are now offering the first production models of the Pyle Labgear teletext adapter for colour television sets. This enables the user to receive a stream of services of broadcast pages of news and other information to be received simply by connecting the adapter to the set and then selecting the appropriate pages by means of a calculator-like keypad.

While the general benefits of teletext are becoming familiar, its potential for deaf viewers has been largely overlooked. Together with the Post Office's proposed telephone-linked Viewdata service, teletext could help to revolutionize communications for the deaf and the hard of hearing.

A modest programme is now under way to help to make teletext adapters or decoders available to deaf people. This is one of several examples of the application of new technology to the problems which face the deaf and the blind.

The teletext programme has been mounted by Deaf-Fax, a small research and development group based in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Set up jointly by Mr Ken Carter, a lecturer at the Centre for the Deaf, London, and Mr Derek Southern, an electronics instructor at Harwell, the group aims to concentrate on assembling and hiring out the decoders.

Demonstrations to more than 1,000 deaf people have aroused an enthusiastic response. Deaf-Fax is applying for charitable status as a company and meanwhile has got this moving labour from an electronics club in Wallingford, money raised by local groups by raising pub crawls by £200 and hardware donated by Plessey and Texas Instruments.

Deaf-Fax is also developing a "video writer" to enable deaf people to communicate more easily by telephone (teletext-linked telephones for the deaf and in use but are relatively slow and expensive to use).

A typewriter-like keyboard would be linked to a memory unit and to a television screen which would display what is typed. The message would be stored in the memory unit and later transmitted rapidly by telephone using a magnetic coupler. This means that no permanent attachment to the telephone is needed to a recipient having the same equipment.

By volunteer assembly, purchase of components at discount prices and, possibly, support from one of the larger foundations, Deaf-Fax hopes to be able to provide teletext decoders at a rental of perhaps £1 a week within the next few years, and to gain feedback on their use that will be of general educational value.

Meanwhile, in Knightsbridge, that £395 price tag is likely to drop to between £100 and £150 over the same period, if electronic calculator experience is any guide, as production volumes increase. The technology is being applied in devices to help the blind, also. These include a portable braille computer terminal and other business machines, developed by Clarke & Smith of Wallingford, Surrey, with support from the National Research Development Corporation.

This terminal has a single-line strip along which braille characters are literally erected by raised pins responding to stored information on a magnetic tape. For the future, it is envisaged, this same principle could be applied so that blind people could "read" (in braille) the BBC and BBA teletext pages.

It is already possible for blind people to read ordinary print in books, newspapers or other documents, with the help of an electronic device known as the Optacon. With one hand the user moves a small camera across the text to be read; under the fingers of his other

hand the shape of the letters is reproduced via a series of vibrating rods.

This system was developed by the Optacon Systems, a United States and introduced in Britain via the Royal National Institute of the Blind. Mr John Ford, a former technical officer with the RNIB, is now running Sensory Aid Systems, a London business which holds the United Kingdom agency for the Optacon.

The Post Office's Data Processing Service has acquired Optacon equipment for use by a number of computer programmers who are blind. As well as the basic Optacon, a more sophisticated type called Optacon-Fitter, a typewriter is used which enables the operator to read and fill in forms (such as computer input forms).

Another Optacon modification enables the device to be used to read characters from the screen of an ordinary video display. Other special computer facilities include output which is punched in braille.

At a price of about £2,000, including training, the Optacon devices give blind staff the ability to read virtually anything that is printed. They are in general slower in use than braille, but clearly give great advantages in enabling professional staff to read and handle technical documents which are unavailable in braille.

Two other aids for the blind are being supported by the National Research Development Corporation. One is the Soniguide, an ultrasonic device mounted on spectacles which enables a blind person to be aware of obstacles ahead.

Ultrasonic transmissions from the device are reflected by obstacles ahead and converted into audible sounds, such as a way that the pitch of the echo indicates the distance.

Twin receivers in the spectacles are used to give a stereo sound pattern, from which the approximate direction of an object can be discerned.

The second NRDC project again involves Clarke & Smith, which, together with the RNIB, pioneered the "talking book for the blind" scheme using tape cassettes. Latest development in this field is a fast method of copying large numbers of cassettes, which up to now has proved a problem in the talking-book service.

In recent years a number of local "talking" newspapers have emerged to complement the talking-book service. The new copier, according to the NRDC, opens up possibilities for the introduction of cassette-based "talking magazines" with a national circulation.

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Business Diary: Union blues • Men of property

The Conservative Trade Unionists, formed in 1918 but little heard of until recently, are for the first time trying to get a prominent TUC figure to address their annual conference to be held at Nottingham in March. So far, success has eluded them.

Len Murray, TUC general secretary, has declined as he plans to be in Geneva. It is an open question whether he would have attended had he been able.

Undeterred, the CTU have written back inviting Norman Willis, Murray's deputy general secretary, or indeed any other prominent TUC person "who might not be indisposed."

The CTU, whose chairman, Tom Ham, is an officer-greaser at Fort Deane, has bounced into prominence recently with the production of lists of favoured candidates in certain trade union elections. Until recently the CTU have been little more than an organization for recruiting trade unionists to the party, but are now trying to affect union policy.

Comprehensive records of where the supporters are, where they live, and who is prepared to stand for office are being built up and Conservative sympathizers are being told how to take part in union affairs at branch level.

The CTU claim that of the 1 million in trade unions affiliated to the TUC, four

million support the Conservative Party. Willis's reply should be extremely interesting.

Full circle

Property is losing its leading lights at quite a clip, yesterday seeing the departure of John Brown as managing director of Argyll Properties and Michael Rivkin as chairman and MD of Argyll Securities.

John Brown, who fought an impressive rearguard action against Sun Life Assurance's takeover of Argyll last year, forcing the insurer to up its bid from £41m to an eventually successful £50.5m, left the group after 18 years at the end of 1976.

Brown, like Bryn Turner-Samuels, Percy Bilton's chief executive who announced his surprise decision to retire late last year, is taking it easy for the time being. But a property man for more than 20 years, having started in the business at the age of 16, he is now sounding out a number of possible new jobs.

"Property is very much in my blood," Brown says, and so his departure from the business may be only temporary. Widely tipped as the new chief of the Crown Agents Australian property developments, he decided that Australia would be too extreme a move at this stage and he will not be drawn on suggestions that Turner-Samuels's depar-

ture from Bilton might have left a vacancy for him to fill. Michael Rivkin's resignation, to start "a private property business", after Argyll's absorption into Sir James Goldsmith's Générale Occidentale Group, means that his career has come full circle.

In the late 1960s his own property company, Renslade Investments, rode the crest of the property boom, acquiring an option to develop a big piece of the huge Hays Wharf scheme in London's dockland. In the early 1970s Renslade was decanted into Argyll, Rivkin being managing director with a slice of the group.

When the market went sour in 1973 he was left holding a

mass of undevelopable schemes but kept Argyll afloat with a de-gearing sales programme. Sir James, who controlled a third of Argyll's equity, made a successful 50p a share bid for the group late last year and has now handed management over to a Générale Occidentale team headed by Nicholas Spurrier.

Afloat

Nobody hopes more fervently than Kenneth Holmes that Jack Jones is right in christening 1977 as "the year of the beaver".

Holmes is managing director of the Renwick Group, the

freight, travel agency and boat-building group, whose logo is a beaver.

The group, based at Paignton, Devon, is exhibiting its Princess range of motor cruisers and Moody yachts at the Earls Court boat show. It had a year of "unprecedented difficulty" in 1976, according to Holmes' chairman, Clifford Wilson.

Wilson is in Bangkok for his daughter's marriage, but Renwick is represented at the boat show by Holmes and David King, cofounder and managing director of Marine Projects, the Plymouth-based boatbuilder in which Renwick has a majority stake.

Holmes said that they had invited Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, to the party to introduce the Renwick and Moody boat show stands, but Jones was unable to make it.

Marine Projects, Holmes said, was now Renwick's biggest profit earner, having contributed £168,000 pre-tax last year and certain to do "very much better" in 1977, thanks largely to the halving of VAT to 12½ per cent in the home market and the slide of sterling in export markets, mainly The Netherlands and West Germany.

Holmes said the company had already had an offer from Quax for all four boats on the Marine Projects stand, but as the way with Middle East, as is,

it would take some time to confirm the deal.

Renwick reported a post-tax profit of £70,000 for the six months to October 2, compared with a loss of £81,000 at the same time last year, and a loss of £367,000 for the year to April 3 last, mainly owing to problems in the freight division.

Will it wash?

Jim Priest, vice-president of the Radio, Electrical and Television Retailers' Association, is one of three Midlands businessmen trying to organize independent retailers to take on the discounters.

First, with Norman Upton and John Dealey, is director of a new company, Swannald (1977), in which retailers are being asked to buy a stake.

Swannald (1977), Priest says, has an option to buy the Swannald name from a division of BSR (Housewares). The company, in consultation with its dealer-subscribers, would then assemble domestic electronic goods, beginning with a dishwasher.

The company plans to compete on quality and service rather than price and hopes to take on companies such as Bosch and Miele. So far, a third of the £150,000 needed for the start has been raised and the directors should know whether they can go ahead by the end of the month.

Nothing's been seen or heard about your secretary and the personnel officer since the office party."

Hollywood

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Hollywood

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Equities continue post-Christmas advance

With encouraging bank lending and industrial investment figures reinforcing an already firm tone, share prices gained ground for the sixth consecutive day.

Once again most trading was confined to the morning session, but bargains marked off 5,500 were the best for three weeks. The FT Index, 8.3 ahead at 2 pm, was later hit by profit-taking to close at 367.8, a net gain of 5.1 on the day.

Renewed takeover talk brought more speculation in Newcastle shipowner **Common Brothers**. The shares jumped 12p to 160p. **Favoured potential suitors** are **Swan Hunter**, which has about 18 per cent, and **British & Commonwealth** through its stake in **Monteth Investment**, which holds 10.5 per cent.

It now stands more than 100 points better than the 1976 low, reached in late October, with more than 25 per cent of this recovery coming since Christmas.

The trend to lower interest rates again spurred gilts where "shorts" rose one-eighth and medium and long-dated stocks were better by as much as one half. The expectation of a 14 per cent MLR helped the Government Broker to sell more of the 15 per cent long "tap" at 199.

Among the big-name indus-

trial leaders most interest centred on GEC which came out with its capital reorganization plans late in the day.

Before the news the shares rose 8p to 181p but thereafter jobbers did not deal. Elsewhere, **Hawker Siddeley** continued its run with another 10p gain to 472p. **Tube Investments** gained 3p to 318p and **GKN** 5p to 289p. But after early strength, **ICI** settled back to an unchanged 350p after profit-taking.

Paper and printing shares were wanted again, particularly **De La Rue**, better by 7p to 247p, and **Dickenson Robinson** 6p to 96p. At the close, **WH Smith** "A" stood 3p better at 341p, there were tuppenny gains from **Bowater** 184p and **Reed** 194p with **Beaverbrook** "A" adding 11p to 35p. **Associated Newspapers** succumbed to profit-taking after its recent run which has been based on North Sea hopes.

The shares ended 6p off at 130p, but other North Sea stocks continued to go ahead, notably **Berry Wiggins** 5p to 35p, **IC** 10p to 370p and **Siebens** 12p to 132p.

Though more subdued than in recent days, shipping shares again had some firm spots. These included **British & Commonwealth** 5p to 220p, **Manchester Liners** 5p to 220p, **Reardon** "A" 5p to 75p and **European Ferries**, an active stock and 3p to the good at 58p.

Ocean Wilsons jumped 8p to 156p on bid hopes.

One already to have received an approach is **Kode Inter-**

Up went paint maker and Woolworth supplier Donald Macpherson 4p to 44p after a 3p rise on Wednesday. Figures for the year to last October are due next month. **Business prospered in the first six months and margins widened sharply. It could be that market hopes of £2.5m against £3m were conservative. Profits could have been around £3m.**

national and the shares added another 2p to 59p. **Bookmakers**, **Ladbroke**, up 1p to 91p and **Coral**, 2p to 101p, both staged a partial recovery from recent losses.

Profits more or less in line with the market's expectations, left **Allied Breweries** unchanged at 65p, after 67p, while **Vaux** 7p to 235p, **Wolverhampton** and **Dudley** 4p to 119p and **Bass** Charrington 3p to 97p were other bright spots on the pitch.

Dunford & Elliott added 4p to 42p after news of the local acceptance of **Johnson & Brown's** terms with other good engineers being **Glynwed** 6p to 83p and **Metal Box** 4p to 256p.

Electricals, too, were in demand, the best proving to be **Thorn** "A" up 6p to 222p ahead

of figures, **International Computers** 7p to 160p, **BICC** 5p to 95p and **Comet Radio** 5p to 50p after the annual meeting.

Food shares continued to go ahead with **Associated Dairies** another 8p better at 200p, **Kwik Save** up 5p to 138p, **Tate & Lyle** 6p to 270p and **United Biscuits** 3p to 134p.

The oil majors could not keep up the pace of recent days and **BP** fell 12p to 824p on **Wall Street**. In contrast, the **Lasmo** Scot units closed another 6p to the good at 278p, a rise of 18p so far this week.

Selection Trust put on another 10p to 475p on further reflection of the good drilling results from the Teutonic Bar copper/zinc/silver prospect in Australia. The results also dragged up **Charter Consolidated**, which has 28.8 per cent of Selection, by 9p to 134p for forecasts.

In the financial sector, the firmness of the gilt-edged mar-

ket helped issues like **Cater** 11p to 248p, **Gillett Brothers** 5p to 175p, **Allen Harvey & Ross** 20p to 370p and **Jobber Alkayd & Smithers** which ended 10p firmer at 185p.

Morgan Crucible rose 5p to 92p after figures to the market's liking.

The value of all deals in December was £10,783.67m, slightly better than the £10,605.56m recorded in November and the best figure since January of last year. Fixed-interest stocks totalled £9,681.35m, against £9,503.59m, and equities £1,102.32m, against £1,101.96m.

Equity turnover on January 5 was £57.20m (13,372 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to **Exchange Telegraph**, were **ICI**, **RAT**, **D&D**, **Barclays**, **Union**, **BAT**, **Ind**, **Lloyds**, **BP**, **Distillers**, **National Westminster**, **Shell**, **Commercial Imperial Group**, **GKN**, **Beecham**, **Siebens Oil**, **European Ferries**, **Lucas**, **Trust Houses Forte**, and **Reed Group**.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord	Year	Pay	Year	Prev
Allied Breweries (25p)	2.4	ago	date	ago	year
Anston Bldgs (25p) Int	0.75	18/2	—	2.18	—
Stead & Stappes (25p)	0.55	16/2	—	2.28	—
Symonds Eng (5p) Int	0.37	28/2	—	1.08	—
Smith Wallis Int	1.0	16/2	—	2.78	—
Tomkinson Hldgs (25p)	0.3	0.28	1/4	—	3.67

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in **Business News** dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54.

Assoc Eng paying above market price for pref

For a limited period **Associated Engineering** is to buy one of its classes of preference stocks through the **Stock Exchange** at a price "substantially" above that quoted in the market in recent weeks.

In a letter to shareholders Mr John Ferguson, chairman, said that buying started on Wednesday of the group's 4.55 per cent redeemable preference shares, of which there is £3m in issue. It is proposed to start buying at 50p a share. Final redemption of the shares on October 1, 1980, is a known commitment, and it has been fully recognized in forward financial planning.

As explained in the notes to the latest accounts, this class of preference is redeemable at the option of the company after September 30, 1970, at a premium of 7 1/2p a share, and is finally redeemable on October 1, 1980, at the same premium.

The chairman adds that the arrangements proposed are designed to help discharge this commitment. They are entirely separate from, and do not conflict with, the reasons for the recent rights issue.

The rights issue in November

B & C Shipping gains Menteith

Bricomin Investments, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **British & Commonwealth Shipping** has gained control of **Menteith Investment Trust** after a spate of buying. It already held over 17 per cent. **Menteith** was formerly **Ralli Securities** Trust.

Bricomin has now agreed to buy from **Ralli Securities**, a subsidiary of **Bowater Corporation**, its holding of 10m **Menteith** shares at 16p cash apiece, making a total of about £1.63m. **Bricomin** will then own 53.79 per cent of **Menteith**. **Barrings** on behalf of **Bricomin** will offer cash for the rest at the same price.

Comet even more cheerful now

If anything, the chairman of **Comet Radiovision Services**, Mr M. J. Hollingbery, was even more cheerful at the annual meeting than in his December yearly statement.

He said yesterday that business and margins had continued to go well, and he now expects profits for the six months to next February to be "materially" ahead of those made in the whole of 1974-75 when they were £2.26m.

In his annual statement the chairman, simply referred to profits "in excess" of the previous record year. **Comet** is an electrical discounter and retailer.

El Rental still on set course

Dear money has not thrown **Electronic Rentals**, the TV renter, off course. A year ago Mr Maurice Fry, chairman, predicted pre-tax profits of around £10m for the year to March 31 next but since then the cost of borrowing money has jumped.

Even so, the directors now report that, despite high interest rates in the second half-year and other things, bigger sales and new rentals should mean that profits will still be around the £10m projected.

In the six months to September 30 turnover climbed from £30.47m to £42.37m. Depreciation rose from £6.8m to nearly £9.9m but interest fell from £1.84m to £1.29m.

Spear & Jackson's contempt for Hestair's £5.75m bid

Hestair's £5.75m bid for hand tool and saw manufacturer **Spear & Jackson** is dismissed as "inadequate" and "opportunistic" by Mr S. M. de Bartolomé, Spear's chairman in a contemptuous rejection document.

Mr de Bartolomé states that Hestair has failed to offer any explanation for a drop in Hestair's net tangible assets between last January and the date of the offer document last month.

He argues that the net tangible assets for every Hestair share has been reduced by 24 per cent.

Spear does not produce any specific profit forecast, but Mr de Bartolomé reports that there has been a strong increase in orders since the end of the summer holidays. He says that "the improvement has produced substantially better profits."

Hestair's former finance director, Mr R. H. E. Nellist, has resigned his executive role at Hestair but remains on the board as a non-executive director for the time being.

would recommend a maximum dividend.

Maidenhead loss

After loan stock interest of £88,000 against £106,000, pre-tax profits of £27,000 gave way to losses of £108,000 at **Maidenhead Investments (Holdings)** in the six months to September 30.

This is the 78 per cent-controlled subsidiary of **Argyle Securities**, now recommending minority shareholders to sell their holdings to **Generale Occidentale**, Argyle's parent.

The results reflect the heavy start-up costs on new house-building sites. Turnover was £3.4m against £3.6m.

Scrip from P. J. Carroll

The Dublin-based P. J. Carroll cigarette and tobacco group—in which Rothmans has a 40 per cent stake—proposes a one-for-two scrip issue as well as a dividend of £287,000 against £456,000, but after interest and investment income of £15,000 against £6,000.

Profits of the motor division went down 25 per cent to £105,000 and margins fell to 3.45 per cent from 5.27 per cent. But footwear profits jumped by 34.4 per cent to £854,000 with margins widening from 12.3 per cent to 14.5 per cent.

The turnover in the third

quarter has continued to go ahead, with footwear trading going up 22.6 per cent and motor trading by 39.5 per cent.

Over the whole of 1975-76, pre-tax profits slipped from £1,36m to £1,33m. Of those £1,08m against £1,14m came from shoe sales and £255,000 against £211,000 from motors.

Spanish acquisition by Wheatsheaf

Wheatsheaf Distribution and Trading has established a new company in Spain, **Distribuciones Gimenez y Compania SA**, 75 per cent of which is held by its Dutch subsidiary holding company, **Wheatsheaf Holdings BV**.

In turn, **Distribuciones Gimenez** has acquired the trading assets of the business formerly carried on by **Sucesores de Gimenez y Compania SA** for a price equal to the tangible assets of Gimenez at December 31, 1976, plus 51m pesetas for goodwill. The net cost to the new company is expected to be about 85m pesetas (about £733,000).

The new company will operate under the cash and carry and delivered trading system and will sell grocery products (including VG franchise), and a small dis-

count store operation in Zaragoza and the surrounding areas in Central Spain.

The share capital contributed by **Wheatsheaf** was 100m pesetas (about £862,000) and was paid in cash raised by means of a Euroloan.

Stead and Simpson rebounds 23 pc

Better margins on footwear helped pre-tax profits of **Stead & Simpson** to rise 23.5 per cent to £959,000 in the six months to September 30.

Turnover of this footwear retailer and motor trader, excluding VAT, rose 14 per cent to £8.92m, so margins were 10.7 per cent against 9.94 per cent. The dividend rises from 0.77p gross to 0.84p.

The profits were struck before adding extraordinary profits of £287,000 against £456,000, but after interest and investment income of £15,000 against £6,000.

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Target-Coyne

Target Trust Managers has taken over the management of the **Coyne** Growth Fund and intends to merge the fund with one of its own unit trusts as soon as possible.

Had Target not assumed the management, effective from the beginning of this year, then it is likely that the **Coyne** Fund would have been terminated and its portfolio liquidated.

There are 180 unitholders in the fund, valued at approximately £95,000.

Texas-Dow in oil and gas deal

Texas Oil & Gas has bought **Dow Chemical's** interest in 151 gas and oil wells and about 62,000 undeveloped leasehold acres for \$15.25m.

At present **Texas Oil** is the operator for 146 of the wells drilled under a joint agreement with **Dow** in 1971. **Dow's** working interest in the wells is about 25 per cent.

They are in **Texas** Oil's operating sectors of **Texas**, **Oklahoma** and **Kansas**. The reserves of 75 of these wells are bound up in **Texas Oil's** gas gathering systems. About 57,000 of the undeveloped acres are in **Colorado** and the remaining 6,000 acres are in **Texas** and **Oklahoma**.

Mr William Hutchinson, chief executive of **Texas Oil**, said that since **Texas Oil** already ran nearly all of the producing properties no new staff or overheads would be required. The two groups are to continue cooperating in the exploration and development of oil and gas reserves.—AP-DJ.

common share for every share in Koehring.

Preferred shareholders of **Koehring** would exchange their series "G", "H" and "I" convertible preferred for a new issue of **Fruehauf** convertible preferred.

The completion of the acquisition depends on further review of the operations of the two groups, and approval of a definitive agreement by directors and shareholders.—AP-DJ.

Overseas

Sanko DM100m bond

Sanko Steamship plans to issue a **DM100m** bond on the German capital market, the group said in Tokyo. It is still negotiating the terms with a syndicate managed by **BHF Bank**. But there was no comment on reports in Europe that the bond will be for seven years bearing a 7 1/2 per cent coupon.—Reuter.

Kaufhof sales up

Germany's second biggest department store chain, **Kaufhof AG**, reports 1976 sales up 3.7 per cent to **DM6,930m**. Some **DM5,390m** of the total sales

were accounted for by the parent company, **Kaufhalle GmbH**, a store-chain subsidiary, raised sales 2 per cent to **DM1,340m**. But the travel agency, **offshoot** reported revenues down 2 per cent to **DM197m**. Net profits in 1975 were a record **DM90.5m**.—Reuter.

Earnings of Dutch supermarket group **Ahold NV** last year rose "well above" 1975's 18.8m florins the group said in Zaandam. Sales rose 15 per cent to 3,300m florins.

Ahold goes well

The supermarket division and other retail outlets went well and further expansion is planned, said Mr Albert Heijn, chairman. Lower prices will be announced for a number of products in the next few weeks to enable **Ahold** to keep its share of a market expected to grow more slowly.—Reuter.

Juvena (GB) to close

Juvena (Great Britain), a subsidiary of **Juvena AG** of Switzerland, is to stop trading. It blames poor UK prospects.

The slump in sterling against the Swiss franc means that the British company could not survive on imports raised from the money needed to develop the market cannot be forthcoming from Zurich.

Briefly

HERON-INGERSOLL

Heron Corp said that its 40p cash offer to reach outstanding 25p ordinary share in **Ingersoll Group** is now unconditional. **Accretions** received for 37.52 per cent of shares under offer, bringing **Heron's** stake to 88.08 per cent.

C.I. COMPANIES

The number of companies registered in the Channel Islands grew last year from 14,742 to 17,008. There were 1,237 new formations in Jersey, bringing the total there to 12,267, while **Cyprus**'s total rose by 714 to 4,747. **Admiralty** registered companies increased by 15 to 292.

SCOTT LITHGOW

Reflecting its increasing offshore oil activities the **Scott Lithgow** group is to form a new company—**Scott Lithgow (Offshore)**. It will coordinate the group's offshore oil-related interests.

DCE VOKES INC

A new company, **DCE Vokes Inc**, based in Jeffersonville, Kentucky, formed by **DCE Vokes Group**, to market **Brush** made dust control equipment to processing industries in the United States. The company plans to achieve sales of over \$10m before 1980.

WINTERBOTTOM TRUST

Net revenue before tax for year to November 30 up from £24,000 to £250,000. Payment raised from 5.35p to 5.77p gross. Asset value increased after deducting prior charges at par, 215p (202.3p).

CCH INVESTMENTS

The chairman of **CCH Investments**, Mr Gordon A. S. Currie, and associates have acquired a further 171,000 ordinary shares in the company. They now own 575,000 shares, amounting to 10.1 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital.

DEUNDI HOLDINGS

Mr G. W. Deundi and his family, with co in which he has substantial interests, now hold 101,900 shares (19.6 per cent).

H. MILLER

Sales of **H. Miller Investments** rose from £1.03m to £1.12m in half-year to June 30, but pre-tax loss £11,107, (profit £631). No interim payment (same). Break-even point was reached towards end of half-year, but dividend unlikely.

SMITH WALLIS

Pre-tax profits for half-year to Sept 30 down from £141,000 to £63,000. Interim payment 1.54p gross again.

MERCANTILE INVEST TRUST

Repayment made on Dec 30 of the \$4.8m loan of 7 1/2 per cent reciprocal loan, both previously due on Jan 31, 1977.

MERGERS CLEARED

Following mergers are not to be referred to the **Monopolies Commission**: **McConnell-Kinloch (Provision Merchants)**; **Hoopes**; **Immunid BV-Baxter Fell**; **Trafalgar House Investments-Direct Spanish Telephone**.

WINN-MANN

Winn Industries has bought a further 20,000 ord in **Mann and Overton**, bringing holding to 596,000 shares (22.07 per cent).

ARIEL INDUSTRIES

Ariel Industries reports that 67 per cent of issued capital now owned by five participants and associates. Co is, therefore, "close" company.

BRIT INDIAN-JOHNHART

British Indian Tea (Holdings) now holds 45,754 ordinary shares in **British Indian Tea (Holdings)**, (26.87 per cent).

SIMON ENGINEERING

Simon Engineering Dudley has

leading, factoring and discounting services.

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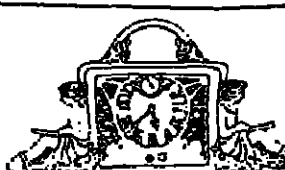
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Find a buyer in The Times

sell and sell fast, put it in The Times Classified Pages. For only £2.00 per line (and there are discounts, too). The more you think about it, the more you need The Times.

Ring 01-837 3311



Stock Exchange Prices

More good gains

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

* Ex dividend, a Ex alt. a Forcast dividend, a Current price, a Interim payment paid, a Price as compared, a Dividend and yield compared, a Special dividend, a Dividend, a Pre-emptive right, a Forcast dividend, a P company contribution, a E rights, a Ex scrip as dividend, a Ex Div. Price adjusted for tax dividend, a Ex significant data.

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices have been 651.57 (June 30, 1959) and 1954 adjusted base 1000.

	Index	Yield	Price	Index
	Latest	%	Per Share	Previous
The Times Industrial Share Index	355.22	5.28	11.62	336.87
Largest Corps.	159.28	5.28	10.29	158.70
Smaller Corps.	206.94	5.28	12.93	178.17
Capital Goods	166.92	5.79	15.23	162.89
Consumer Goods	148.04	7.56	20.21	146.88
New Shares	115.79	8.52	5.74	115.23
Financial				
Share	721.73	6.25	—	725.23
Industrial				
Share	161.82	5.03	—	159.17
Commercial	129.21	5.31	21.26	124.23
Gold Mining				
Share	251.61	5.97	33.95	252.35
Industrial				
Infrastructure stocks	81.72	7.25*	—	81.62
Industrial				
Infrastructure	121.21	7.25*	—	121.21
War Loans	25	33.89*	—	25*

A record of The Times Industrial Share Indices is given below.

	High	Low
AN-128	198.47 (15.8.52)	126.83 (21.12.50)
2977	148.08 (26.6.57)	122.33 (24.6.57)
2978	171.85 (28.6.55)	121.55 (24.6.57)
2979	152.92 (18.7.53)	61.42 (26.6.57)
2974	212.20 (26.6.57)	60.81 (22.7.51)
2975	182.21 (21.6.57)	53.99 (24.12.50)
2973	184.23 (15.6.52)	214.25 (24.6.57)

* Flat interest yield.

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments also on page 11

USING YOUR CAPABILITIES TO THE FULL? DO YOU WISH TO HAVE MORE JOB INVOLVEMENT?

We are a leading trade association for the food industry. We work in friendly informal atmosphere. We need two experienced secretaries to handle correspondence and administrative work. The work is varied and interesting and you will have the opportunity to develop your full potential. We are a friendly and progressive company. We are a leading trade association for the food industry. We work in friendly informal atmosphere. We need two experienced secretaries to handle correspondence and administrative work. The work is varied and interesting and you will have the opportunity to develop your full potential. We are a friendly and progressive company.

SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN
Director of well-known City...
SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN
Director of well-known City...
SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN
Director of well-known City...

La creme de la creme
Write to telephone to The...
La creme de la creme
Write to telephone to The...

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
required for Chartered...
EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
required for Chartered...

ASSISTANT
Female Accounts Manager...
ASSISTANT
Female Accounts Manager...

FIRST CLASS SECRETARY
with good skills required...
FIRST CLASS SECRETARY
with good skills required...

PERSONAL SECRETARY/P.A.
sought for 2 Directors...
PERSONAL SECRETARY/P.A.
sought for 2 Directors...

TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR GIN DISTILLERS
Part-time Secretary...
TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR GIN DISTILLERS
Part-time Secretary...

BC1
The Wombles, 9.50...
BC1
The Wombles, 9.50...

Granada
9.30 am, Sesame Street...
Granada
9.30 am, Sesame Street...

Tyne Tees
9.45 am, Morning News...
Tyne Tees
9.45 am, Morning News...

Anglia
9.10 am, Wendy Woodcock...
Anglia
9.10 am, Wendy Woodcock...

Border
9.30 am, Morning News...
Border
9.30 am, Morning News...

orkshire
9.30 am, Morning News...
orkshire
9.30 am, Morning News...

ster
9.30 am, Morning News...
ster
9.30 am, Morning News...

MANAGER/SSRN
required for West End...
MANAGER/SSRN
required for West End...

PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY/PA
near Victoria station...
PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY/PA
near Victoria station...

SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN
Director of well-known City...
SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN
Director of well-known City...

SECRETARY
required for Chartered...
SECRETARY
required for Chartered...

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
required for Chartered...
EXPERIENCED SECRETARY
required for Chartered...

ASSISTANT
Female Accounts Manager...
ASSISTANT
Female Accounts Manager...

FIRST CLASS SECRETARY
with good skills required...
FIRST CLASS SECRETARY
with good skills required...

PERSONAL SECRETARY/P.A.
sought for 2 Directors...
PERSONAL SECRETARY/P.A.
sought for 2 Directors...

TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR GIN DISTILLERS
Part-time Secretary...
TRADE ASSOCIATION FOR GIN DISTILLERS
Part-time Secretary...

BC1
The Wombles, 9.50...
BC1
The Wombles, 9.50...

Granada
9.30 am, Sesame Street...
Granada
9.30 am, Sesame Street...

Tyne Tees
9.45 am, Morning News...
Tyne Tees
9.45 am, Morning News...

Anglia
9.10 am, Wendy Woodcock...
Anglia
9.10 am, Wendy Woodcock...

Border
9.30 am, Morning News...
Border
9.30 am, Morning News...

orkshire
9.30 am, Morning News...
orkshire
9.30 am, Morning News...

ster
9.30 am, Morning News...
ster
9.30 am, Morning News...

Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...
Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...

LEGAL SECRETARY
required by Senior Partner...
LEGAL SECRETARY
required by Senior Partner...

Documentary Film Co. W.11
Assistant to Producer...
Documentary Film Co. W.11
Assistant to Producer...

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
needed by a professional...
PERSONAL ASSISTANT
needed by a professional...

3 FRENCH/ENGLISH BILINGUAL SECRETARIES
and FRENCH/ENGLISH SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR...
3 FRENCH/ENGLISH BILINGUAL SECRETARIES
and FRENCH/ENGLISH SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR...

CLOCK AND JEWELLERY
departments of busy Knightsbridge...
CLOCK AND JEWELLERY
departments of busy Knightsbridge...

PA/SECRETARY FOR CHAIRMAN OF FILM CO.
Challenging and exciting post...
PA/SECRETARY FOR CHAIRMAN OF FILM CO.
Challenging and exciting post...

FILMS, W.1
Buy office needs an organized...
FILMS, W.1
Buy office needs an organized...

JAYCAR CAREERS
730 5148
JAYCAR CAREERS
730 5148

ATV
10.35 am, Something to Sing...
ATV
10.35 am, Something to Sing...

Southern
10.00 am, Survival, 10.25...
Southern
10.00 am, Survival, 10.25...

Westward
10.00 am, Elephant Boy, 10.25...
Westward
10.00 am, Elephant Boy, 10.25...

Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...
Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...

Border
9.30 am, Morning News...
Border
9.30 am, Morning News...

orkshire
9.30 am, Morning News...
orkshire
9.30 am, Morning News...

ster
9.30 am, Morning News...
ster
9.30 am, Morning News...

Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...
Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...

Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...
Radio
1.00 am, News, Colin Barry...

DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY
Taylor Woodrow International...
DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY
Taylor Woodrow International...

RUN OFFICE AND PARTNER
We are a young professional...
RUN OFFICE AND PARTNER
We are a young professional...

EXPERIENCED SHORTHAND TYPIST
required for busy Company...
EXPERIENCED SHORTHAND TYPIST
required for busy Company...

EFFICIENT SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required by three investment...
EFFICIENT SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required by three investment...

LET US DEVELOP YOUR EXECUTIVE POTENTIAL
A real opportunity for a...
LET US DEVELOP YOUR EXECUTIVE POTENTIAL
A real opportunity for a...

SENIOR PA LEGAL
City £3,650-£3,750
SENIOR PA LEGAL
City £3,650-£3,750

CHEERFUL SECRETARY FOR SMALL BUSINESS
small business seeking...
CHEERFUL SECRETARY FOR SMALL BUSINESS
small business seeking...

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
55 Fleet St., E.C.4.
COVENT GARDEN BUREAU
55 Fleet St., E.C.4.

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required for busy Knightsbridge...
SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required for busy Knightsbridge...

INFORMAL FAMILY REUNION
in Mother's Home/Parish...
INFORMAL FAMILY REUNION
in Mother's Home/Parish...

RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...
RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required for busy Knightsbridge...
SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT
required for busy Knightsbridge...

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required for busy Knightsbridge...

RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...
RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...

WESTMINSTER SOLICITORS
require A-Level Secretary...
WESTMINSTER SOLICITORS
require A-Level Secretary...

SOUTH KENSINGTON
Young active office to work...
SOUTH KENSINGTON
Young active office to work...

DOMESTIC SITUATIONS
KIND PERSON NEEDED NOW
DOMESTIC SITUATIONS
KIND PERSON NEEDED NOW

BRUSSELS
Comfortable home with...
BRUSSELS
Comfortable home with...

IF YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED NURSE
with a minimum of 10 years...
IF YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED NURSE
with a minimum of 10 years...

TWO COOKS GENERALLY
needed for busy Knightsbridge...
TWO COOKS GENERALLY
needed for busy Knightsbridge...

FRIENDLY COMPANION/HOUSEKEEPER
required for busy Knightsbridge...
FRIENDLY COMPANION/HOUSEKEEPER
required for busy Knightsbridge...

MOTHER'S HELP FOR BUSY PROFESSIONAL
family on Richmond Hill...
MOTHER'S HELP FOR BUSY PROFESSIONAL
family on Richmond Hill...

COUPLE REQUIRED, HOUSE, KENSINGTON
Self-contained, house, Kensington...
COUPLE REQUIRED, HOUSE, KENSINGTON
Self-contained, house, Kensington...

URGENTLY NEEDED, ADAPTABLE NANNY
for busy family, Kensington...
URGENTLY NEEDED, ADAPTABLE NANNY
for busy family, Kensington...

RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...
RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...

RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...
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RELIABLE INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
required for busy Knightsbridge...

MOTOR CARS
ROVER 3500 SD1, R. Registration...
MOTOR CARS
ROVER 3500 SD1, R. Registration...

WANTED
URGENT-Immediate cash...
WANTED
URGENT-Immediate cash...

CAR HIRE
RANGE ROVER HIRE, Cheapest...
CAR HIRE
RANGE ROVER HIRE, Cheapest...

SITUATIONS WANTED
GIRL, 18, well educated...
SITUATIONS WANTED
GIRL, 18, well educated...

FLAT SHARING
ARE YOU A HUNTER? Farrier...
FLAT SHARING
ARE YOU A HUNTER? Farrier...

WANTED, HOUSES IN WIMBORNE
Richmond area for long let...
WANTED, HOUSES IN WIMBORNE
Richmond area for long let...

WIMBORNE, W.I.
Very small, modern house...
WIMBORNE, W.I.
Very small, modern house...

WIMBORNE, W.I.
Very small, modern house...
WIMBORNE, W.I.
Very small, modern house...

WIMBORNE, W.I.
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WIMBORNE, W.I.
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WIMBORNE, W.I.
Very small, modern house...

WIMBORNE, W.I.
Very small, modern house...
WIMBORNE, W.I.
Very small, modern house...

RENTALS
Meadowbank, N.W.2 (near...
RENTALS
Meadowbank, N.W.2 (near...

RENTALS
CORNWALL GARDENS, S.W.7...
RENTALS
CORNWALL GARDENS, S.W.7...

RENTALS
OFF OXFORD ST., W.1. Luxury...
RENTALS
OFF OXFORD ST., W.1. Luxury...

RENTALS
AROUND TOWN FLATS - Central...
RENTALS
AROUND TOWN FLATS - Central...

RENTALS
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A...
RENTALS
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A...

RENTALS
SECLUDED COTTAGE sleeps 5...
RENTALS
SECLUDED COTTAGE sleeps 5...

RENTALS
LUXURY UNFURNISHED FLAT...
RENTALS
LUXURY UNFURNISHED FLAT...

RENTALS
WANTED, HOUSES IN WIMBORNE...
RENTALS
WANTED, HOUSES IN WIMBORNE...

RENTALS
WIMBORNE, W.I. Very small...
RENTALS
WIMBORNE, W.I. Very small...

RENTALS
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RENTALS
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RENTALS
WIMBORNE, W.I. Very small...

RENTALS
WIMBORNE, W.I. Very small...
RENTALS
WIMBORNE, W.I. Very small...

BEST PART OF HAMPSHIRE
Delightful, spacious flat...
BEST PART OF HAMPSHIRE
Delightful, spacious flat...

DO YOU HAVE HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION
in 1977? If so, please...
DO YOU HAVE HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION
in 1977? If so, please...

STAMFORD - Attractive
modern house, 3 bedrooms...
STAMFORD - Attractive
modern house, 3 bedrooms...

LUXURY fully furnished
C.H. apartment, 2 bedrooms...
LUXURY fully furnished
C.H. apartment, 2 bedrooms...

RICHMOND
Peterson, Victoria...
RICHMOND
Peterson, Victoria...

CHILSEA CLOISTERS
Sloane Avenue, London...
CHILSEA CLOISTERS
Sloane Avenue, London...

WE DO NOT claim to be magicians
we do try harder to find...
WE DO NOT claim to be magicians
we do try harder to find...

SUPERIOR FLATS and houses
available, Long or short...
SUPERIOR FLATS and houses
available, Long or short...

MAKING THIS THE YEAR YOU LEARNED TO WRITE
Wherever you live, whatever...
MAKING THIS THE YEAR YOU LEARNED TO WRITE
Wherever you live, whatever...

LANGUAGES FROM EXPERTS
Evening classes in French...
LANGUAGES FROM EXPERTS
Evening classes in French...

COMPANIONSHIP/MARRIAGE
for professional and academic...
COMPANIONSHIP/MARRIAGE
for professional and academic...

YOUR LONDON OFFICE
Ideal for professional...
YOUR LONDON OFFICE
Ideal for professional...

FREE! JOURNALIST AVAILABLE
ghost writing and research...
FREE! JOURNALIST AVAILABLE
ghost writing and research...

LOAN SCHOOL, OF FINE
28 Kings Road, London...
LOAN SCHOOL, OF FINE
28 Kings Road, London...

BEHIND THE SCENES
Behind the scenes of...
BEHIND THE SCENES
Behind the scenes of...

ITALIAN CARVED MARBLE
Statues, busts, etc...
ITALIAN CARVED MARBLE
Statues, busts, etc...

ENGLISH COLLECTOR
wishes to buy...
ENGLISH COLLECTOR
wishes to buy...



